



# THE NOE VALLEY VOICE

## Local Groups Launch Toy and Food Drives

By Pat Rose

The holiday season is upon us, and Noe Valley's stores and churches are gearing up to make charitable giving as easy as one-stop shopping.

In mid-November, the Noe Valley Merchants Association will kick off its annual toy drive for the Women and Family Holiday Party sponsored by the San Francisco AIDS Foundation. The Merchants will put out toy barrels in front of Small Frys clothing store at 4066 24th St. and the Bank of America branch at the corner of 24th and Castro.

Association vice president Carol Yenne, who owns Small Frys, asks that residents please donate new (unwrapped) toys. "We suggest books and games, stuffed animals, or makeup and jewelry for the girls. Also, those Pokémon trading cards are big this year," she says.

Yenne notes that this is the fourth year the Merchants have collected toys for the family party. "It's really heartwarming. A lot of the children and mothers are struggling with AIDS. And what they get in the way of donations during the holidays is a big part of their Christmas."

A variety of donations can also be made down the street at Zephyr Real Estate, 4040 24th St. According to Zephyr sales manager Randall Kostick, his office will set out four different barrels for donations. Two barrels, one for the Child Abuse Council of San Francisco and another for the firm's traditional Toys for Tots drive, will solicit new, unwrapped toys. This year Zephyr will also offer barrels for Project Open Hand and the San Francisco Food Bank. Canned and non-perishable food can be dropped off in each.



### Haven't We Seen You on TV?

Closer inspection of the celebrity on Miguel Jimenez's shoulder reveals a 2-year-old chihuahua named Whiskey, who we're sure prefers his tacos on 24th Street.

Photo by Pamela Gerard

rels for Project Open Hand and the San Francisco Food Bank. Canned and non-perishable food can be dropped off in each.

"We've been doing the Toys for Tots barrel on 24th Street since we opened here in 1992," says Kostick. "We always have great success—people drive up and drop off a load of toys and take off. It takes very little space and effort for us to do something we feel is important for the holidays."

The Zephyr barrels will be available from Thanksgiving weekend through

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## Rec and Park Tries Out a Fenced Dog Run at Upper Noe

By Heidi Anderson

For the past year, the city has been tangled in a battle between snarling parents and yelping dog owners over the use of the athletic field at Upper Noe Recreation



**Hayley's World.** Here's more good news: Hayley Nicole Green is glad to be among us, and she's ready to show us how to smile in case we're a bit out of practice. For a brief history of her neighborhood arrival and family influences, see page 35.

Photo by Pamela Gerard

Center. Now, like King Solomon, it has offered to divide the park.

Last month, the Recreation and Park Department announced a plan for a fenced-in dog run at the back of the playing field (also called Day Street Park).

Rec and Park acting chief Joel Robinson presented the plan at an Oct. 13 meeting attended by about 75 park neighbors. He displayed a map of the field showing the fenced area beginning behind the baseball diamond backstop on the 30th Street side and running all the way across to Day Street. The dog run would be about 30 feet wide by 200 feet long.

The fence, like the "home-run" fence put up during Little League games to catch runaway baseballs, would be portable and put up and brought down each day by the Upper Noe staff. Dogs would enter and leave the area via the park gate on 30th Street near Church.

Under the plan, people could exercise their dogs off-leash only during certain hours of the day, such as 6 to 9 in the morning and 6 to 9 at night. During that

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## Two Digital Docs Who Can Ease Your Computer Pain

By Jeff Kaliss

Ever since he hung out his shingle in late summer, Jim Cooley has felt less like the itinerant miracle worker and more like the local family physician.

For the past couple of years, Cooley has been operating a computer troubleshooting business out of his residence at 22nd and Church. He's been scooting around to individuals and businesses in the neighborhood, installing equipment and mending blockages and breakdowns.

In August, he relocated his practice to the tiny storefront on Sanchez Street near 24th once filled by PuroFino Cigars. He calls it the Computer Closet.

"Part of the reason I moved here was to get all the computers out of my house, and now I don't have a single one there," explains Cooley during a break from upgrading a client from Windows 95 to 98 and expanding his machine's data processing space.

The medical comparison is Cooley's idea. "I'm like a doctor because I know everyone," he says. "So far, I can pretty much remember what people have in their computers and what their problems are. And [whether or not you're my client], it's a good idea for you to get a regular checkup. I clean out your temporary files, make sure your hard drive's working, and most importantly, update your device drivers and patch your products."

Another specialist, Duncan Fraser, who runs his own Macintosh & PC Solutions service from his home near 20th and Church, points out that the digital doctor has to be a bit of a shrink, too.

"A very common emotion people feel

around their computers is one of incompetence, fear of the unknown, which therefore brings up feelings of vulnerability," Fraser says. "And there's the fear that they're gonna hurt something."

There's further anxiety in allowing someone like Fraser or Cooley to look into the private, sometimes secret place that computers have become in the '90s.

"When you're going into someone's hard drive," where much of the computer's information is stored, "it's akin to opening someone's medicine cabinet," Fraser has found. "There are all kinds of personal things on there, whether it's e-mail or surfings from the Internet."

Cooley recounts helping a female client install image-editing software and in the process discovering that her husband had downloaded prurient pictures from an X-rated web site.

The two computer pros think it's essential to inspire trust in their clients—and to inspire their clients to trust themselves.

"The most enjoyable clients I work with are the ones where basically the two of us are just sitting there and exploring," Fraser reveals, "whether it's hooking up a digital camera or going through old files. And it's not only just doing it for them, but teaching them how to do it themselves, and building up confidence where they can do it on their own. I want them to be self-sufficient."

The bulk of both men's client roster is small businesses and institutions, a goodly number based in Noe Valley. Cooley has built computers for Small Frys,

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**Look for Inspiration in Art.** Frank Lloyd Wright said, "Ugliness is a sin." One neighbor on Valley Street offers this cherub to passersby, perhaps as a reminder to pick up our palettes and record the beauty around us.

*Photo by Najib Joe Hakim*



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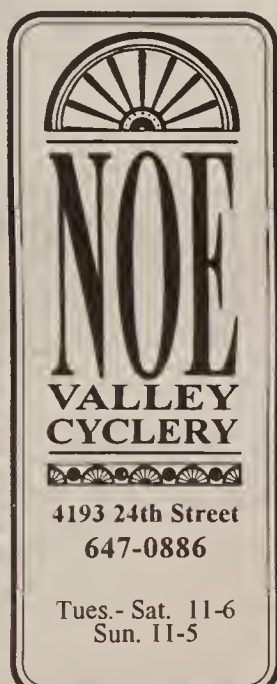
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## LETTERS 33¢

### Vote Was 70 to 5 for Dogs Off-Leash

Editor:

I would like to make a couple of points about Georgia Schuttish's attack on Noe Valley dog owners in the Letters section of the October 1999 *Voice*. Her approach to the issue of off-leash dog use at Upper Noe Recreation Center on Day Street is to irresponsibly pit dog owners against children, and neighbor against neighbor.

Yes, a "moribund organization [Upper Noe Neighbors] was revived by a surge in membership of dog owners." And yes, dog owners exercised their right to vote and adopted a policy supporting off-leash dog use in the park (by a vote of 70 to 5). But this is much more than the "appearance of a majority," as Schuttish so coyly puts it. And to date, more than 500 signatures have been collected in favor of off-leash dog use at the field.

Schuttish suggests that dog owners "expend their efforts on getting the city to give them off-leash space elsewhere in the neighborhood." This is throwing a bone — a bogus suggestion — for as Schuttish knows, there really isn't any appropriate space in the neighborhood.

Schuttish needs to be reminded that the field at Upper Noe is for everyone, including dog owners and children. The compromise offered by dog owners was responsible and neighborly.

Thomas Gladysz  
Church Street

### Rain, Not Rover, Wrecked Field

Editor:

You knew you'd get an avalanche of letters in reply to Ms. Schuttish's October letter about dogs. Well, here's mine.

About her remark that dogs destroyed the field two years ago: In case anyone missed it, we had torrential rains two winters ago. Many dog owners weren't even taking their dogs to Upper Noe, the field was such a mess. Last winter wasn't much better. But now that we've had our dry season, the field looks pretty good to me, even though the dogs have been playing there all summer.

As for kids being chased by dogs, not to say it's never happened, but I've personally never seen it at Upper Noe. What I have seen are children who come to the park and want to play with the dogs.

Ms. Schuttish writes, "It's the law," to keep the dogs on leash. But no law is going to deter people who lack respect for persons or property. Even if dogs are banned at Upper Noe, there will likely be someone who sneaks their dog in to poop on the field. Just like there will always be some lamebrain on the adult baseball team who drinks beer, smashes bottles, and urinates behind the backstop. But no one is proposing that *all* adult ballplayers be banned.

The dog owners I come in contact with on a daily basis are a very conscientious lot and want to be able to enjoy the park without being yelled at.

This is a public park paid for by all of us via our taxes. We should have as much right as anyone to use the park. We have gone out of our way to use the field respectfully. We clean up after our own dogs as well as pick up the "orphan poops." We've agreed not to use the park during games. We have restricted our dog playing time to 6 to 9 a.m. and 6 to 9 p.m.

However, if this park is going to be made available to only certain segments of the neighborhood, then it should become privatized and the people who are "allowed" to use it should pay for its upkeep.

Finally, it's a shame that a few have chosen to go about this by dividing our

community, creating animosity and ill will, and insisting that the neighborhood comply with their narrow view. We're all damaged by this hostility, dog owners and non-dog owners alike. May I suggest that some of this ferocious campaigning be diverted to homelessness, poor schools, AIDS, the environment, and world peace.

Janis Reed  
28th Street

### Canines and Kids Do Mix

Editor:

This is in response to Georgia Schuttish's letter in your October 1999 issue. I am a dog owner, parent of a 9-year-old boy, and live around the corner from the Upper Noe Rec Center. I was at the July 22 meeting of the Upper Noe Neighbors.

My family uses the Upper Noe field twice daily to walk our dog. My husband uses the tennis courts weekly, and my son frequently uses the facilities to play basketball, baseball, ping-pong, etc. We have a vested interest in working out a reasonable solution to the "dogs off-leash" issue.

I take issue with Ms. Schuttish's implication that there are "winners and losers" in the debate over dogs using the field. This is not a war between dog owners and parents, and it is counterproductive to view it that way. The problems Ms. Schuttish describes in her letter (stepping in dog feces, kids can't use the field for athletic activities, etc.) are not wholly the result of dogs using the field.

First of all, dog feces on the field are there because a few irresponsible dog owners do not pick up after their pets.

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Editorial Office: 415-821-3324

E-mail: [jaxvoice@aol.com](mailto:jaxvoice@aol.com)

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CO-PUBLISHERS/EDITORS

Sally Smith, Jack Tipple

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS AND EDITORS

Heidi Anderson, Karol Barske, John Bryant, Collin Campbell, Helen Colgan, Kathy Dalle-Molle, Richard Dodds, Maire Farrington, Anita Newman Fate, Roberta Greifer, Kathryn Guta, Suzanne Herel, Doug Konecky, Florence Holub, Jeff Kaliss, Alex Nicole Leviton, Janis Cooke Newman, Alison Pence, Lois Perillo, Elliot Poger, Mark Robinson, Pat Rose, Roger Rubin, Anne Sengès, Carol Small, Steve Steinberg, Karen Topkian, Rayne Wolfe

CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS

Charles Kennard, Photo Editor  
Pamela Gerard, Najib Joe Hakim, Leo Holub, Ken Newman, Beverly Tharp

CONTRIBUTING DESIGNERS

Karol Barske, Jon Elkin, Suzanne Scott

ILLUSTRATION

Karol Barske

WEB DESIGN

Elliot Poger

ADVERTISING SALES

Steve Steinberg, Advertising Manager

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## Red Holiday Banners to Go Up on 24th

By Sally Smith

Finally, Noe Valley residents can stop complaining about those tattered, tinsel Christmas trees that have dangled from 24th Street light poles since the 1950s. Well, maybe.

The Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association has bought new holiday banners to put up this year. "Those old trees were frayed and many had been destroyed, so we wanted to replace them," said Harry Aleo, chair of the Merchants' decorations committee and owner of Twin Peaks Properties on 24th Street.

Shortly after Thanksgiving, the Merchants will hang 34 banners—which are 8 feet by 3 feet and hang straight down—on utility poles along 24th Street from Chattanooga to Douglass. The new banners, ordered from a decorations company called K.C. Enterprises, are mostly red but have a green wreath and "Seasons Greetings" imprinted in white script.

"We picked these out because they were the best-looking and would not offend 99 percent of the people," Aleo said. The group stayed away from obvious Christmas symbols and settled on what they thought was a generic holiday design. "Nobody wanted Christmas trees, and one person [who was outvoted] even objected to the wreath," Aleo said.

"But if you want Christmas, come over and look at *my* window," he laughed. "I'm going to have a Christmas tree, a Santie Claus, and a nativity scene!"

You also could see some sparkling white lights on storefronts this year. Said

Small Frys owner Carol Yenne, "Many members of the association wanted to have white lights [strung from the poles instead of banners], but we couldn't do that because we don't have undergrounding of utilities on 24th Street." Instead, the shops are being encouraged to string the lights on their individual storefronts.

And if for some reason you're still attached to the old tree decorations, never fear. "We've got 24 of the old trees left in storage. So we've decided to use them too," said Aleo.

The green tinsel trees will be interspersed with the new red banners, bringing the total of decorated poles to 58.

Aleo said the Merchants—with contributions from neighborhood groups and residents—had spent the past three years raising the \$7,000 to pay for the new decorations. But they could still use donations, especially since it costs \$3,000 a year to store and install them. (The group contracts with a firm in Grass Valley.)

Those who'd like to contribute are invited to join the organization (dues \$75 a year). Or you can mail a check, made out to the Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association and earmarked "24th Street Decorations," to Aleo at Twin Peaks Properties, 4072 24th St., San Francisco, CA 94114. For membership information, call group president Robert Roddick at 641-8687.

By the way, if the trees and banners are still too "Christmasy" for your taste, you might want to count your blessings. Aleo, who has run his business on 24th Street for more than 52 years, recalls that "in the late '40s, we had music coming from amplifiers on the poles on 24th Street, and we played Christmas carols all day. They even had a loudspeaker on Twin Peaks.

"A lot of the residents complained about that, too." □

## Donate Food, Toys, or Time

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Christmas. Donations can also be made at Zephyr's 17th Street office.

### Churches Plant Giving Trees

The neighborhood's two Catholic churches will solicit food for Thanksgiving and gifts for Christmas. At St. Paul's on Church Street and St. Philip's on Diamond near 24th, residents can donate canned goods or money (in the form of checks) for Thanksgiving baskets for the needy from Nov. 14 to 24. The food baskets are organized and delivered by the St. Vincent De Paul Society.

Both churches will also put up their annual "Giving Trees" on Thanksgiving weekend. The trees list hundreds of names—along with gender and age—of senior citizens and children who are in need of Christmas gifts. Residents are asked to take a paper ornament from the

### IN MOTHER TERESA'S FOOTSTEPS

The Missionaries of Charity residing in St. Paul's convent on 29th Street do not solicit donations. However, the Mother Teresa nuns in the flowing white robes will "take anything you bring us and give it to the people," says Sister Mary Deepam. You can drop off food or clothing at the convent door at 312 29th St.

You can also help prepare or serve food at the Missionaries' soup kitchen on Third Street downtown. The year-round kitchen operates from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. daily except Thursday. To volunteer, call Sister Mary Clarita at 586-3449.

tree, purchase an age-appropriate gift, and bring it back to the church with a real ornament for the tree.

"We've been doing this for years," says St. Paul's Mary Tan. "The Mother Teresa sisters have a big party for the Mission neighborhood kids and seniors to distribute the gifts."

For both Thanksgiving and Christmas donations, St. Paul's prefers drop-off on Saturdays and Sundays while the church is open. The deadline for Christmas gifts is Dec. 20. For more information, contact Mary Tan at 648-7538.

St. Philip's donations can be dropped off daily from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. (The church is closed from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m.) On weekends, donations will be accepted from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. For more details, call Father Michael Healy's office at 282-0141.

### Join a Volunteer Brigade

The Noe Valley Ministry at 1021 Sanchez St. will offer a different kind of charity this year. According to Pastor Keenan Kelsey, the Ministry is busy organizing a series of one-time events, which people can volunteer for in groups.

"We're going to offer things like working at a battered women's shelter, hosting a children's party for a children's center [like Head Start], bagging goods at a food bank, or providing holiday cheer at the safe house for prostitutes at Network Ministries," says Kelsey. Residents can choose from a list of activities that take between two and four hours.

"These are targeted one-time activities you can participate in to serve the community between Thanksgiving and Christmas. We think we can make a difference sending a group of people to six or eight projects, instead of having people spin off individually," Kelsey says.

The list of volunteer activities will be posted at the Ministry by mid-November. For more information, call 282-2317. □

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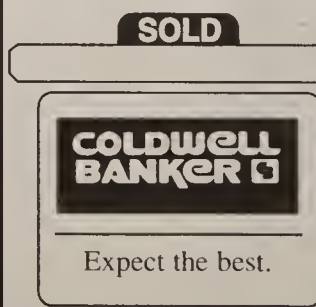
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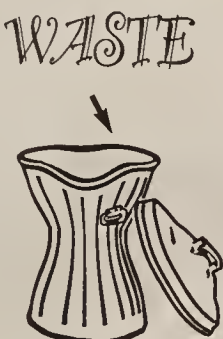
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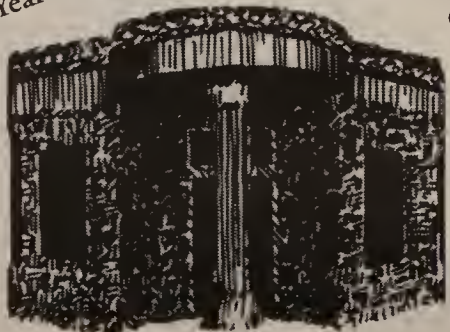
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# LETTERS 33¢

Continued from Page 4

While we as dog owners can't completely control others' irresponsible behavior, those of us who use the park during the hours of 6 to 9 a.m. and 6 to 9 p.m. have become vigilant about asking other dog owners to pick up their dogs' mess. We also provide extra bags and make sure we leave the field as clean as possible.

Second, the field has been torn up and will be re-sodded because of drainage problems, not because of the dogs. This is what we have been told by officials from Rec & Park.

Third, the option of a fenced-in dog run was tangentially raised at the July 22 meeting, but there was no meaningful discussion because no one had seriously looked into its viability. Therefore, it is not accurate to state that the dog owners were against it. The first consideration would be finding the space to accommodate the number of dogs that use the field daily. There is a fenced-in dog run up at Buena Vista Park which works well, but that space is much larger than what we have to work with at Upper Noe.

Those of us who live in San Francisco are here because we love what our city has to offer. Those of us who are fortunate enough to live in Noe Valley know that we have the best neighborhood of all. Unfortunately, what we don't have is the kind of unlimited open space that the suburbs offer. We were told at the July 22 meeting that Noe Valley had more dogs per capita than other neighborhoods. This naturally results in more dogs at our park.

The bottom line is that dogs and athletic fields *do* mix if there is a commitment and willingness to make the mix work. I know there are many dog owners who use Upper Noe—myself included—who are willing to work toward a solution that satisfies everyone's needs.

Trinidad Madrigal  
Sanchez Street

### Fur Flies Over Dogs at Upper Noe

*Editor's Note: The Voice ran out of room to print all the letters we received in response to last month's letter about off-leash dogs at Upper Noe Rec Center. However, we plan to put the overflow on our web site, [www.noevalleyvoice.com](http://www.noevalleyvoice.com). Meanwhile, we received the following letter about another disputed patch of green in Noe Valley—Noe Courts at 24th and Douglass streets.*

### 'Poop Patrol' Slacks Off at Noe Courts

Editor:

Ever since my 14-month-old son was born, I have brought him to Noe Courts [off 24th Street], specifically to see the dogs, and of course to play at a very pleasant neighborhood park. I was concerned that he might learn to fear dogs if he didn't have proper exposure to them. For the past year we have had an exceptionally good time meeting lots of wonderful people and their dogs. Every dog owner has been really nice and kind enough to spend time introducing their dogs to him and he has thoroughly enjoyed it.

I have wholeheartedly supported the mixed-use aspect of the park, and think it is an asset to Noe Valley to have a place where kids and dogs can enjoy themselves together.

Now that he can walk/run, he covers lots of territory, and he has managed lately to step in dog poop every time we go on the lawn at Noe Courts. He certainly doesn't go looking for it. In fact, he doesn't pay much attention to where his feet go, as is typical for small kids. He has been walking since before 10 months and

never before has there been any problem with poop left on the lawn. Lately, it seems to be everywhere.

I now feel forced to go to Douglass Park, where I don't have to worry about doggie-doo everywhere. This is unfortunate since Noe Courts has a nicer atmosphere, especially in the late afternoon when many people bring their dogs.

I had thought that it was possible for dogs and kids to get along if everyone was responsible and aware of the potential problems. I am not so sure anymore.

I realize that accidents happen and that dog owners sometimes aren't aware that their dog has left a land mine, but I certainly am not going to spend my time picking up after dog owners.

Although all of the dog owners I have seen are diligent about cleaning up after their dogs, and I commend and thank them, some others apparently aren't. Since there is an abundance of dog poop, it seems someone isn't being a good neighbor. Given the turbulent history of trying to make Noe Courts a mixed-use park, it troubles me to see it being soiled so much lately.

I hope this letter will remind all the pleasant people of Noe Valley to remember to think of others.

Tim Brand  
Via e-mail

### Frank Jordan, Closet Liberal?

Editor:

In your article about the mayor's race ["Grumbles and Groans Greet Mayor's Race," October 1999], one of your interviewees is quoted as saying that "Jordan is a closet Republican." Is he joking?

Frank Jordan was the first police chief in the nation to aggressively recruit gay and lesbian police officers. He was also the only police chief to call upon the National Association of Police Chiefs to include sexual orientation in their nondiscrimination policy. Is that closet Republicanism?

When Jordan was mayor, he declared a state of emergency to allow for needle exchange, appointed more gay and lesbian people than any mayor before him, and brought San Francisco's foster care program from a national disgrace to a national model. He refused to cut the monthly General Assistance amount, and supported medical marijuana.

As a candidate, he supports the living wage concept, the ban on ATM fees, and the Sunshine Ordinance. Jordan is not even endorsed by the local Republican Party, but Willie Brown had the Rev. Eugene Lumpkin on stage in 1995 when he announced his candidacy. Rev. Lumpkin calls "homosexuality an abomination against God."

If we liberals want a kind, progressive government, then we must examine the facts instead of accepting the mud that is slung by one's political enemies.

Robert Oakes  
Via e-mail

### Don't Overlook Lucrecia

Editor:

There are more than three candidates running for mayor of San Francisco! You write that your readers are not inspired by the three candidates receiving almost all the media coverage. But your readers will want to know about this campaign.

Lucrecia Bermúdez, a resident of Bernal Heights, is the only woman, Latina, and lesbian running for mayor. In addition, she has been endorsed by the S.F. Tenants Union, Green Alternatives, the Peace and Freedom Party, the Immigrant Rights Movement, Vietnamese Resi-

Continued on Page 8



## Dogs Will Romp Behind the Fence For Three Months

*Continued from Page 1*

time—and perhaps at all times (this issue is still up in the air)—the rest of the field would be off limits to dogs. “We want a distinct run for the dogs so that we can allow athletic and dog recreation without them commingling,” Robinson said.

He explained that park officials had recently conducted a test at a similar park in Eureka Valley. There they let the dogs have free rein of the entire field for certain hours each day. Problem was, the foot and paw traffic damaged a wide area of turf. “From our experience, we know we will lose the Upper Noe field if dogs get to use all of it off-leash.”

The Upper Noe dog run would be set up on a three-month trial basis, shortly after the field is resodded this fall. (The resodding is scheduled to begin in November.) After the three-month test, the city would hold a neighborhood meeting to evaluate the results.

“We are looking to serve the total community,” Robinson stressed. “This is just an experiment.”

### Some Sniff, Some Wag Their Tails

Still, reactions to the plan were mixed.

Lewis Loeven, who has been active in a group called Day Park Dogs, thinks “any proposal that accommodates the entire community has to be seriously considered.”

But Joby Shinoff, a Church Street resident and dog owner who’s also in the group, is worried about the potential to ban dogs elsewhere on the field. “This plan is unworkable,” he said. “It’s wrong because we may not have a way for people to be at the park with their dogs on-leash during other hours.”

(Shinoff had earlier submitted a petition with 500 signatures asking for off-leash hours on the open field, from 6 to 9 a.m. and 6 to 9 p.m. daily.)

Noe Valley resident Patti Moran, who works as a dog trainer, considers the size of the dog run to be a flaw. “That dog run is not big enough for a dog to actually run in,” she said.

Moran is also concerned that dogs going in and out of the narrow gate might get into spats. “Dogs greet each other in a side arch, sniffing and not making eye contact. The head-on greeting here would force dogs to use improper body language.”

Other pet owners complained about the dog run’s location, pointing out that the area behind the backstop is often muddy and that trash and broken glass could endanger the animals.

But neighbor Joan Kelly, who brings her children to the park, gave the plan a thumbs-up. “We have a health problem when dogs and humans both use the same field,” she said.

Duncan Street resident Georgia Schuttish, who also brings her kids to play at Upper Noe, backs the proposal, too. “Dog owners have had a free ride on that field for four or five years, and this is a way to protect taxpayer money for the upkeep of the athletic field,” Schuttish claimed. (She noted that she had collected 500 signatures on her own petition, asking that the leash law remain in effect at all times.)

And the park staff is enthusiastic. Calling the dog run idea “terrific,” Upper Noe Park Director Chris Borg said she’d let her Tiny Tots children play on the field more, once the fence is in place. She also said she’d monitor the situation daily and make sure the park staff cleaned up behind the backstop.

In answer to other dog owner complaints, Robinson said he’d entertain a suggestion to build a second entrance at the opposite end of the run. He’d also consider changing the location. “I admit the dog run is small.” Still, he hopes the neighborhood pet owners will give it a go.

“I understand this solution is not perfect,” he said. “I’m asking your indulgence for three months.” □

*Joel Robinson’s office later advised the Voice that two more meetings would take place on the dog run—one right before the fence goes up, to discuss the exact rules, and another three months later to evaluate the test. Both meetings will be announced via signs posted at Upper Noe Rec Center. In the meantime, the park staff has put down a chalk line showing where the fence will be. If you have questions or comments, call Becky Ballinger of Rec and Park at 831-2783.*

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Thanks to all who helped contribute to the success of St. Paul's recent Retro Dinner Dance fund-raiser.

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# LETTERS

*Continued from Page 6*

dents' Association, *Labor Militant*, *S.F. Frontlines* newspaper, and many others.

Bermúdez obtained over 24,000 votes in her run for supervisor in the last election (12 percent of all those who cast votes for supervisors citywide). In neighborhoods like the Mission, the Excelsior, and the Western Addition, her share of the vote represented from 20 to 25 percent.

Her electoral history combined with her endorsements and the strong show of volunteers going door-to-door, leafleting, poster, and getting the message out, should certainly qualify her as a major candidate for mayor.

If you'd like to find out more, please call her campaign at 415-452-9992 or check out her web site at [www.lucraciaformayor.com](http://www.lucraciaformayor.com).

Nancy Ippolito  
Harrison Street

## Tish Off to New York

Dear Friends:

Before I embark on my new life in Ithaca, New York, I wanted to offer my heartfelt thanks to the many wonderful folks who have wandered through the doors of the Good News magazine shop these past three years and shared a little of their lives with me.

Ups and downs notwithstanding, my life has been truly enriched by meeting and sharing stories with so many of you. Thank you, one and all. I won't forget. In fact, I might even write a play.

All the best.

Tish A. Pearlman  
Staff, Good News  
3920 24th St.

P.S. I want to extend a very special thank-you to Sam Salameh for being such a wonderful human being as well as a wonderful man to work for.

## High Praise for PastaGina

Editor:

This is an unsolicited testimonial written to those who may be unaware of PastaGina, an outstanding takeout food shop at Diamond and 24th streets.

Joan and Gene are the delightful couple who have owned this very special gourmet shop for several years. Because of their love for the business, and due to the fine quality of their food, they have continued to be successful — and customers even come from outside Noe Valley. (I take two buses about once a week to get to PastaGina, and I always leave with two heavy bags. Their plastic bags are special too — a beautiful turquoise color with no advertising or writing on the

bag. Just simple and elegant to carry!)

You will drool when you see their showcases of food. Joan has an eye for beauty, and the displays resemble fine paintings with great color. They have a vast selection of salads, pasta, freshly cooked vegetables, olives, breads, and desserts. In the freezer are homemade soups, meatballs, and other goodies.

The shop is sparkling clean. The staff is friendly and knowledgeable. Go in and take a look. I'm sure you will buy something. And I know you will return again and again.

Here's to your continued success, Joan and Gene!

R. B. Fischler  
West Portal

## Free Weaving and Quilting Classes

Editor:

As I know Noe Valley readers are interested in arts and crafts, I want them to be aware of the great deal being offered by City College of San Francisco at the John Adams Campus (formerly Lowell High). Textile classes, which include hand weaving on floor looms, tapestry making, and quilting, are being offered free, and new students, of any age, are welcome anytime. The strange thing is that these classes are begging for students due to lack of advertisement.

From personal experience, I know these courses are great and reflect the diversity of cultures which made our American heritage unique. Classes are held Tuesday through Saturday at John Adams at 1860 Hayes St. The campus is easily accessible by Muni.

Catalogs are available at all city public library branches or through the CCSF Bookstore (50 Phelan Ave., S.F., CA 94112). You can also call 415-239-3000, or log on to [www.ccsf.cc.ca.us](http://www.ccsf.cc.ca.us).

Virginia Mehegan  
Liberty Street

## Tackiness the Price of Freedom

Editor:

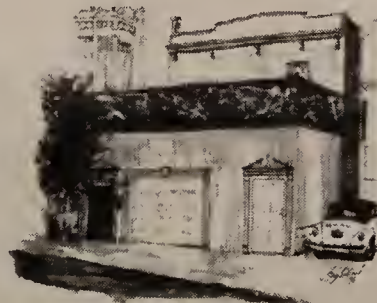
Do you know what happened to those super-duper newsstands that were on the sidewalk in front of Bell Market until a couple of months ago? I thought they looked really nice. They had a clean look.

The individual boxes there now look junky.

Christina Sauvageau  
Vicksburg Street

*Editor's Note: The spiffy-looking pedestal newsstands were set up last year on a trial basis only. Though residents liked their looks, many independent news outlets complained that having a finite number of cubbyholes could limit free speech. Now the old stands are back, while the city and newspapers such as the Bay Guardian and the Independent thrash it out in court.*

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# Meet Two Flesh and Blood Computer Fix-it Guys

*Continued from Page 1*

banished bugs for Selecta, and created networks for St. Paul's and several neighborhood lawyers.

"A lot of them are asking for networks now," Cooley says. "They want to put all their files on one central computer [for use by two or more people at separate stations], and they're pleasantly surprised to find it's cheap and works very well."

Cooley also designed a web site for Java Ventures on Elizabeth Street, a group that facilitates tours and coffee exports in poorer South American countries (its location is [www.javaventures.com](http://www.javaventures.com)). The site is easily navigated and admirably clear in its exposition.

"Everyone's seen bad sites where you can't get where you want to go without digging through layers," Cooley points out. "So you've got to look at it from the standpoint of the average user, rather than some web whacker. Aesthetics are secondary: You don't go on the web to see pretty pictures," he maintains. "You go there to get information."

Fraser comes to computers from a business background. He majored in economics in college, was employed by Coca-Cola in his native Atlanta, attended Harvard Business School, and worked for startups and in consulting after moving to near Dolores Park in 1990. That experience has been attractive to his neighborhood commercial clients.

"I think smaller businesses are where a lot of the prosperity in our economy is coming from," Fraser says. "People get laid off from XYZ Corporation and then figure it's not such a bad thing after all. They'd rather be doing landscaping or whatever their interest is. Then they realize, 'To be more efficient about what I'm doing, maybe I'd better get a computer.' And that's where I come in: to find solutions—not only to make their business more efficient and easier to run, but also to integrate computers into that goal."

He cites the example of a Noe Valley architect, partnered with an interior designer. "We laid out three things: a system by which they could manage clients and keep track of their invoicing and billing; a way to manage their relationships with vendors to optimize their cash flow and keep track of what they'd ordered for which clients; and a system to organize their own workloads."

But the web and the Internet have themselves helped both men extend their businesses well beyond Noe Valley. "I've got a client in Czechoslovakia," boasts Cooley. "We work via e-mail, and I can also remotely work on his computer through the Internet. He dials up and launches a program, and I can get into it and fix things up."

On the local front, Cooley avoids direct advertising "to keep the demand down." However, he has leafleted at Martha & Bros. Coffee Company on 24th Street and initiated an arrangement whereby his Computer Closet customers can get a free cup of coffee while their machine is being worked on. For those who want to sit and observe his wizardry, Cooley provides a basket of jellybeans. (He also provides, in the box accompanying this article, some basic tips for computer users.)



Computer troubleshooter Jim Cooley (kneeling) just opened a fix-it shop on Sanchez, where clients like Jack Shallow can drop by and network.

*Photo by Charles Kennard*

"A lot of times, I can diagnose a problem on the phone," Cooley notes. "But my rates are at market or under it." For work on personal computers (IBM PCs), either on site at Computer Closet or at the client's home or business, he charges a diagnostic rate of \$35 for up to half an hour, and \$65 an hour for repairs. Cooley's rates are somewhat less for Macintosh products, because he knows less about them, he says. "Questions are always free, if I have the time."

Fraser says his rates vary by project and depend on the complexity of the job. "But for the smaller ones, the hourly rate runs from \$100," and there's a half-hour minimum as well.

Fraser is conversant with the Apple line and is "very pleased to see what's gone on there in the last 18 months or so: the iMac and iBook have definitely turned the tide in terms of simplicity and ease of use and aesthetics as well. The advantage of the PC platform is, obviously, its ubiquity, and the wide variety of software that's made for it. It's come a long way with [the] Windows [operating system]."

Cooley's new retail location will allow him, within the next few weeks, to set up a bank of computers on which clients can rent time. There will be three PC terminals and one Mac, with a scanner, printers, and high speed to the Internet. "The machines the public uses," he points out, "will also be demonstration machines for different levels of systems." In other words, if you like it, he can build one for you to take home.

As much as Cooley and Fraser know about what their clients don't know, they are ardent about not talking down to people new to computing.

Fraser shares an anecdote about a Noe Valley man whose father, while visiting, had assembled his son's new system but then had to phone and ask, "What does the pedal do?"

Arriving at the home, Fraser discovered that the computer's mouse had mistakenly been placed by the father on the floor instead of on the top of the desk. "He ended up laughing at himself," says Fraser, "but to me, the only dumb question is the one you don't ask."

You can reach Fraser at 415-824-0323 or at [MacPCSvc@aol.com](mailto:MacPCSvc@aol.com), and Cooley at 415-642-1651 or [miwok@att.net](mailto:miwok@att.net). □

## Jim Cooley's Tips for Staying Cool with Your Computer

1. Check the cables. Even I forget that sometimes.
2. Use quality components.
3. Virus-check all e-mail attachments, and if your virus definitions are older than July 1999, update them.
4. Turn your computer on in the morning and off at night. Try not to repeatedly turn it on and off.
5. Put your CPU (Central Processing Unit) on a couple of phone books or something else, because having it just a couple of inches off the floor will keep dust from getting in.
6. Don't download unnecessary software, because a computer is a tool, and you don't want to weigh it down.



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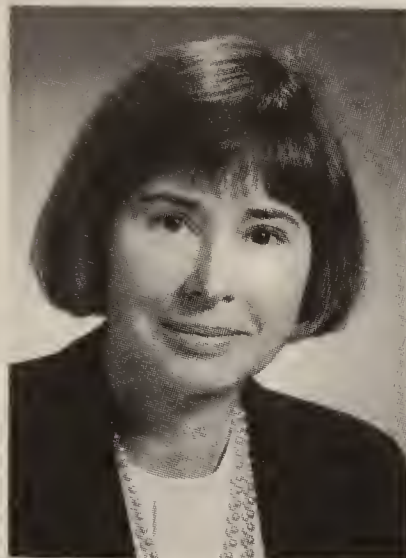




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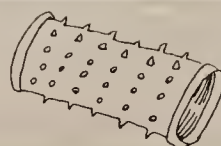


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## Library Branch Gets Two More Hours

But Books May Be What Patrons Really Want

By Karen Topakian

The San Francisco Public Library has proposed adding Saturday morning hours at the Noe Valley-Sally Brunn Library. If the change goes through, the branch at 451 Jersey Street will be open on Saturdays at 10 a.m. instead of noon. The library will close at 6 p.m. as usual.

"I think the neighborhood will be in favor of that," says Roberta Greifer, head librarian at the branch.

And she's probably right. Most patrons, especially working parents, might like to browse earlier in the weekend. (The Noe Valley Library is closed on Sunday.)

Still, the gift of extra hours seems a bit odd, considering its origin.

According to Donna Corbeil, chief of branches for the library, the decision to expand Saturday hours was prompted by a "strong interest from the community." That interest was demonstrated, she said, through recent surveys of branch patrons and a series of community meetings mandated by Proposition E.

Prop. E, the Library Preservation Act passed by the voters in 1994, increased funding for the city's branch libraries by some 47 percent. It also restored hours to previous levels. In addition, the measure required the city to hold a public hearing on hours at each branch every five years.

The meeting for the Noe Valley branch was held Sept. 23 at the Noe Valley Ministry. However, only two community members showed up, and neither was from Noe Valley. (In fact, when this reporter walked in, I was greeted with, "Oh, good, are you a resident of Noe Valley?" I said yes I was, but I was wearing my *Voice* hat.)

The two patrons who were there urged the library to stay open seven days a week, and add more evening hours. They also requested a larger book budget to fill holes in the collection. "Why are there empty shelves in my branch when we're in a time of plenty?" asked Marti Kashuba, a regular at the Bernal Heights branch.

Later, when the *Voice* talked to librarian Greifer about the poor attendance, she said she was not surprised. The Noe Valley Library had received less than a week's notice. "I happened to be out of town, but the community didn't know about the meeting because we got the flyers only a few days before. We also didn't get any signs to post. I was very upset about it. I would have liked to have gone too," Greifer said.

If Noe Valley residents had attended the meeting, would they have asked for different hours? Said Greifer, "Since Prop. E was implemented, I haven't heard many comments on the hours." Carol Small, Noe Valley's children's librarian since 1990, said

she hears more requests for new adult books and videos than for a change in hours. "I don't get too many complaints in Children's," she added. "I get appreciative comments."

And according to the results of the Library's own survey, conducted this past July and August, Noe Valley patrons do put books at the top of their list.

Of the 73 people who responded to a clipboard survey at the branch, most said they preferred more books to more hours. For the record, they also said they preferred weekday evening hours to weekday morning hours, and Saturday afternoon hours to Saturday morning ones. These results were consistent with a random citywide telephone survey the S.F. Public Library conducted during the week of May 15.

But right now, books don't seem to be on the table.

What is up for review is the Library's long-range plan, last redone in 1991. The seven main "directions," or goals, of the new Strategic Plan were outlined at that same September meeting. They are (take a breath): "To meet the diverse needs of our neighborhoods and develop a shared city vision; provide a broad variety of lifelong learning opportunities; support information resources for business and individual entrepreneurs; provide education and recreational services and resources for our youth; work towards providing barrier-free access to all library services, including materials in major language and alternative formats; provide information about community services and resources; and work towards equitable access to its resources for all residents at the access point of their choice."

All these issues — but particularly the new hours for Noe Valley and other local branches (Mission and Eureka Valley each stand to lose one hour) — will be on the agenda at the Library Commission's monthly meeting Nov. 3. Public comment can also be made at a special hearing on Nov. 18. Both meetings start at 5:30 and are held in the Koret Auditorium at the Main Library.

Branch Chief Donna Corbeil says the commission will make a final decision at its regular (first) Tuesday meeting, Dec. 7. Changes will take effect on Jan. 3, 2000.

The Library will accept written and verbal comments on the hours, etc., through Nov. 30. You can e-mail [cob@sfpl.lib.ca.us](mailto:cob@sfpl.lib.ca.us) or call the City Librarian's Office at 557-4236. Or write the San Francisco Library Commission, 100 Larkin St., Sixth Floor, S.F., CA 94102; fax 557-4240.

By the way, the clipboard survey at the Noe Valley Branch also revealed some interesting demographic statistics. According to the survey, most library patrons are women (77%), and more than half do not have children (54%). The largest portion (33%) fall into the 30 to 39 age bracket. Noe Valley patrons are likely to be white (74%) and highly educated (46% have done post-graduate work). Also, 100% speak English.

So we probably can write, too. Let's get those comments to City Hall. □

*Current hours at the Noe Valley Library are Tuesday, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Wednesday, 1 to 9 p.m.; Thursday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Friday, 1 to 6 p.m.; and Saturday, noon to 6 p.m.*

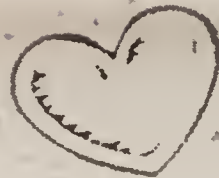


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# POLICE BEAT

## Brother and Sister Go to Jail

By Officer Lois Perillo

A 44-year-old woman and her 42-year-old brother were arrested and charged with the robbery of a 75-year-old man within his own apartment on Cesar Chavez Street.

The robbery occurred on Friday, Sept. 3, at about 2 p.m. But the police didn't become aware of it until Sept. 17, when the elder man called me to report an extortion attempt and death threat that day.

Upon speaking with him, I learned that the extortion happened in the aftermath of a home-invasion robbery two weeks before. The elder man said that on Sept. 3 a woman he had known for about two years had brought the robber, her brother, into his apartment. After stealing his money, the duo bound the older man with duct tape and ordered him to stay in his room while they removed the phone line and exited the apartment.

Although he was not physically harmed, the resident was embarrassed by the incident and refrained from immediately reporting it to police. However, when he got a phone call from someone linked to the sister/brother team, who threatened his life if he didn't hand over more money, he dialed my line at Mission Station (see below).

I recognized the name of the female suspect and ran her criminal rap sheet. Then I contacted Inspector Ted Mullins of Night Enforcement, who took charge of the case.

Mullins placed a tap on the elder man's phone and gathered information, which led him to the sister/brother team. The two were arrested Sept. 29 and remain in custody pending their court dates.

### Three Robberies with a Gun

A trio of bad guys on foot, one carrying a gun, robbed a total of six people in three separate incidents in September. The robberies were on different days, but all were within a two-block radius and between 10:30 and 11:00 at night.

The first robbery occurred on Friday, Sept. 3, at 10:30 p.m. on 21st Street between Valencia and Guerrero streets. The second happened Saturday, Sept. 4, at 11 p.m. on 22nd Street and San Jose Avenue. The last occurred on Sunday, Sept. 19, at 10:30 p.m. in the 100 block of San Jose, between 22nd and 23rd.

Fortunately, the people who were robbed were not harmed physically. In one case, the police detained a suspect. However, the robbery victim was unable to make a sure identification, so the man

was released.

### Street Safety Tips

If you find yourself in a similar situation, here are some safety tips:

- ☞ Be alert to your surroundings.
- ☞ Trust your instincts.
- ☞ If you notice suspicious people approaching you, change your path—go to a neighbor's house, walk into the street, talk loudly, or even run.
- ☞ If confronted with a weapon, comply with the robber's request. Consider removing your money and throwing it on the sidewalk.

☞ Take mental notes of the suspect's looks, clothes, speech, behavior.

☞ After the incident, be gentle with yourself. You've experienced a great stress to which your mind and body will react. Expect temporary changes in your sleeping, eating, and thinking. This is normal, and will usually recede in two weeks.

☞ Talk, talk, talk.

In all of the cases I've described here, those who were targeted by robbers "won" because they were able to tell their stories. If you know someone who was involved in a criminal or critical incident, please support them by allowing them to tell their story and heal.

### Aggravated Assault with a Sink

On Tuesday, Sept. 7, at nearly 2 a.m., a 39-year-old man who had been drinking beer in the Rover's Inn on 24th Street, stole patrons' money from the counter, attempted to punch the female bartender, and then tore a bathroom sink from its fittings and threw it at the bartender and her patrons. Luckily, he missed and the bar's patrons were able to hold him in the bathroom until police arrived.

When the suspect attempted to fight the officers, he was pepper-sprayed. Paramedics were called to the scene to treat the suspect, who then spat and kicked at the emergency workers. He repeated his violent behavior against the nurses at San Francisco General Hospital.

Upon being medically cleared, the suspect was booked at county jail on two felonies and two misdemeanors. He was held for six days, then released on bail. The district attorney's office later reduced all four charges to misdemeanors, and the sink-thrower remains free pending his court date.

### The Women in Blue ... and Red

Yes, once again I packed my bags and headed for the International Association of Women Police's annual training conference. This year, about 500 of us came together during the second week of October in Philadelphia, Pa., to participate in classes ranging from Interview and Interrogation to Crime Scene Investigation to Hostage Negotiation. Opening ceremonies are always a high, since that's the time we don our respective uniforms and march in file, some wearing the red serge of the Canadian Mounties and others the blue wool of the L.A.P.D.

Friends joined me from across the country and around the world. There was Marilyn, a New Jersey state special agent, who was again my roommate; Ohio troopers Mary and Lisa; Seattle motorcycle officer Deb; Portland lieutenant Michele; and Inspector Mary and Sergeant Pat from Madison, Wis.

Constable Linda came from British Columbia, as did Diana of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. Izzy, another constable, arrived from London. Sergeants Carrie and Lynnette, Inspector Dolly, and Officer Robin accompanied me from San Francisco.

As always, the time went too quickly. We're looking forward to the year 2000 and our conference in Toronto, Ontario.

Until next month, let's continue to watch out for one another. I'll see you on patrol. □

*San Francisco Police Officer Lois Perillo covers her Noe Valley beat—from Valencia to Grand View and 21st to Cesar Chavez—on foot and on bicycle. If you would like to discuss a crime or safety problem, call her at 558-5404, the community policing line at Mission Station.*

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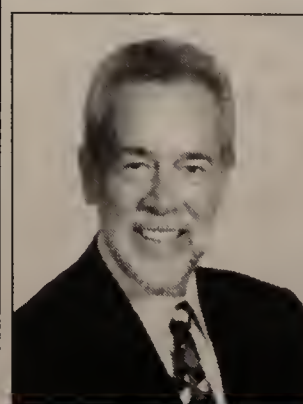
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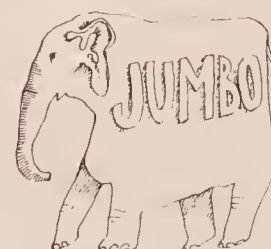
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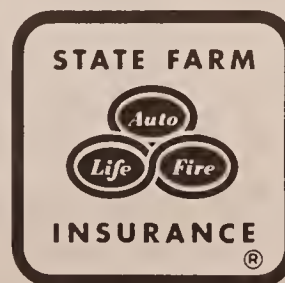
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# Got a Minute for The Minutes of a Traffic and Parking Meeting?

By Alison Pence

I hate meetings. As anyone who has been to one can attest, the chairs are murder on your back and bottom. There are always a few citizens who have to get to the point by going around the barn, and, of course, the evening lengthens and nothing is decided and the room swims and becomes airless to the point of making you faint. (Okay, enough already.)

Well, this meeting was different. On Oct. 6, at 7:30 p.m., two neighborhood associations—the East & West of Castro Street Improvement Club and the Friends of Noe Valley—held a joint meeting at the Noe Valley Library on Jersey Street. Chairing the event was Paul Kantus, longtime president of East & West.

The subject of the meeting was traffic and parking congestion on 24th Street. (In last month's *Voice*, I reported on a DPT survey that measured peak traffic times on 24th Street. FYI, the crunch times are midday, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., and 6 to 7 p.m. in the evening. Try to avoid them.)

On hand to address the issue were four representatives from the Department of Parking and Traffic (DPT), Officer Lorraine Lombardo of Mission Station, Alan Wikburn of the Department of Public Works (DPW), Rich Borghello from Sunset Scavenger, Ron Wilson of Real Foods, and Gary Grossetti and Enrico Fornesi from Bell Market. About 30 people from the neighborhood had gathered to hear what they had to say.

With that many movers and shakers—and because the groups had to be out of the library by 9 p.m.—meeting chair Paul Kantus made sure the meeting clipped along. As each speaker took the floor, I became more fascinated by the discussion.

Soon, I was on the edge of my seat. All in all, it was a good meeting. And judging from the hum and buzz of the conversation afterwards, I would say people felt like they were finally getting somewhere on the traffic score.

But far be it from me to editorialize. Here's my roundup of the meeting. And note I am being kept on the straight and narrow by recording secretary Edith Kantus (Paul's wife). Thank you, Edith, for allowing the *Voice* to incorporate your minutes into the following summary.

## Yes, We Are in a Hurry

Officer Lorraine Lombardo, who often patrols 24th Street on her bicycle, spoke first, since she was on duty and could be called away at any time.

Lombardo said that lately she'd sensed a change in the traffic pattern: Everyone was in a hurry and impatient with the lack of parking, she said. Even the threat of a \$250 fine didn't deter some drivers from parking in the bus zones.

Lombardo cited an example of "road rage," when a jaywalking pedestrian and a driver got into a fight after the jaywalker threw a set of keys and shattered the driver's windshield.

We all agreed with her point: People should slow down and think.

## Shops Want More Meters

The owner of Graystone Liquors, Hugh Stone, then appealed for parking help on his block, the 4100 block of 24th (from Castro to Diamond). As it stands now, the block has no metered parking, and residents' cars are parked from one street-cleanup day to the next, leaving no spaces for shoppers, he said. Stone noted that there is one green zone, for short-term parking, above the bus stop on his



A recent meeting on traffic and parking in the neighborhood revealed what residents have known for ages: 24th Street has more cars, trash, and delivery trucks, but fewer parking spaces, than ever before.

Photo by Charles Kennard

corner. Could meters be installed in the lower third of the block, where most of the businesses are located?

The reps from Parking and Traffic responded that it was up to us to pursue these problems by forming a committee of interested groups. Then we should come up with specific proposals for more parking spaces and bring them to the city for action. (Some merchants have suggested eliminating bus zones and installing bulb stops in their place, as well as putting diagonal parking on Castro from 24th to 26th streets.)

Bill and Carol Yenne—who own Small Frys on 24th below Castro—presented their case that Noe Valley should have some of its parking spaces returned, particularly those which the city has taken away over the years without first consulting with local residents and merchants. Bill Yenne also tried to pin down the DPT as to how long it would take to have a request acted upon by the city.

Ricardo Olea, an engineer with DPT, said that with a concerted effort, a plan might pass through the city bureaucracy in six months. But to be successful, the request has to have the solid backing of the neighborhood.

"Diagonal parking is feasible, for instance, but it will only become a reality if the community presents a united front," Olea said. He alluded to instances where even one citizen objection could put the brakes on a project.

Dave Monks of the Noe Valley Democratic Club agreed, suggesting that a committee be formed, with representatives from each of the neighborhood groups, to draft a petition and follow it through at City Hall. Go, Dave.

## What About Delivery Trucks?

Next in the hot seat were representatives from the two big grocery stores in Noe Valley. The market managers have been cornered by some testy residents lately, due to a rise in double-parked delivery trucks and noise on our commercial strip.

Gary Grossetti and Enrico Fornesi of Bell Market admitted that almost all their

store deliveries took place on 24th Street. They explained that their loading dock on Elizabeth could not be used as such, because the dock is three stories above the main store level on 24th Street.

Grossetti said Bell allows delivery trucks in its customer parking lot in the morning starting at 6 a.m., and in the evening after 9 p.m. But the rest of the day, the store may have to unload from trucks parked (or double-parked) on 24th Street. However, "we try to park in our lot whenever we can," he said.

Ron Wilson, manager of the Real Food Company, said his store also received merchandise starting at about 6 a.m. But he acknowledged that many deliveries were made from 5 to 6 p.m.—a heavy traffic time. On Wednesday, his slow day, pallets are put on the sidewalk and quickly unloaded into the store.

Several residents complained about the large 18-wheelers on the street, and asked

whether there was any way to limit the size of delivery trucks. DPT's Olea responded that unless a street has a posted tonnage limit, there is no limit to the size of vehicles that can use it.

One audience member suggested restricting double-parking of trucks to one side of the street, and the store owners said it might be worth trying. But the consensus was that it might not be practical.

## More Garbage Pickups on 24th

The news from Rich Borghello of Sunset Scavenger was that he'd seen a hefty increase in trash on city streets over the '90s. That's why his trucks must now do five pickups a day on 24th Street.

"Recycling is five days a week, the composting truck goes by six days a week, trash is every day seven days a week, and the litter can pickup is seven days a week, twice a day. That's a lot of trucks," Borghello said.

Until we reduce our trash—or the number of businesses on 24th Street—we'll have to put up with the commotion.

Still, Sunset Scavenger is making an effort to keep down the noise. In response to residents' complaints, "we have kept the hopper switch quiet and changed the compost truck's schedule to a later time," Borghello said.

Alan Wikburn of DPW pointed out that the city's streetsweeping trucks also made daily sweeps of 24th Street. They work Monday through Friday on alternate sides of the street. He added that 24th Street has a live human sweeper too, who pushes a broom along our sidewalks every day.

*Continued on Next Page*

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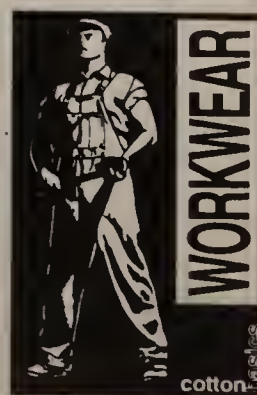
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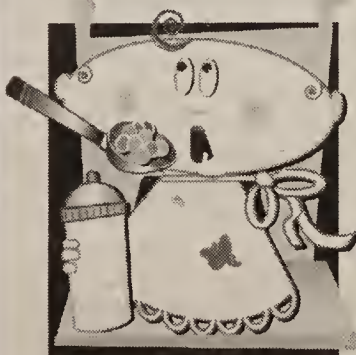


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photographer, and blanket the  
neighborhood with good reviews.

## Honk If You Hate (Love) Meetings

*Continued from Previous Page*

Wikburn went on to introduce the city's Adopt-a-Street program, whereby merchants or resident make a commitment to keep their block clean with help from DPW. To find out how to adopt a block, call 554-6929.

### Everybody's Got Their Own Van

As the meeting was breaking up, Friends of Noe Valley member Eleanore Gerhardt came up to me to talk about my traffic story in the October Voice. She said she had gone out to 24th Street at 8 a.m. on Oct. 5, a Tuesday morning, and actually counted cars and trucks for 30 minutes. Her total was similar to the city's traffic count in August. But where the DPT study did not distinguish between trucks and cars, she did.

Of the 240 vehicles Gerhardt counted, 56 were trucks. What impressed her the most were the number of specialty trucks delivering products. There was an Odwalla truck, a Nantucket Nectar Truck, a Coors, Anchor Steam, Semifreddi's, Grace Baking, etc.

"It seems as if there is a separate specialty truck for every store that carries that specialty item," she said. "Can't they combine their deliveries?"

Good point. And can't the neighborhood groups continue to combine their meetings in the future? ☐

The next meeting of the East & West of Castro Street Improvement Club will be Wednesday, Nov. 3, at 7:30 p.m., at the Noe Valley Library. The Friends of Noe Valley and any other local residents are welcome to attend.





# Brenda Nasio: An Inspiring Poetry Teacher

By Kathryn Guta

Eleven-year-old Ariel doesn't think she can write a poem. "All my ideas are really dumb," she says, wrinkling her forehead and drawing imaginary circles in the air above her blank piece of paper.

"Tell me a tale about the collage you made," prompts Brenda Nasio, 47, pointing toward a fanciful, multicolored creature with large eyes staring directly at them.

Nasio is a Noe Valley resident and one of 25 poet-teachers serving 9,000 children a year in the San Francisco Unified School District. She's in the classroom about 15 hours a week, at James Lick Middle School on Noe Street and Buena Vista in the Mission. (She'll soon be teaching at Marina Middle School as well.)

On Nov. 6, Cover to Cover Booksellers will feature Nasio and other poet-teachers reading from their work at a celebration of California Poets in the Schools.

"I love the students who feel they can't write a word and who later come up with the best poems. What you see in their faces is indescribable," Nasio says. Two of her James Lick students have gone on to publish poems in the 1999 statewide anthology, *A Flame of Words*.

Building self-esteem is the key to making kids' poetic juices flow, says Nasio. And the more her students write, the more confident they feel. But the benefits of poetry extend beyond self-expression. "Children also learn how to listen to the work of others in a respectful way," Nasio says. She adds with a smile, "We don't allow snickering."

As Nasio moves about the classroom quietly encouraging students, a dark-haired girl with butterfly hair clips reaches for a special pencil from her purple pencil box. Instead of an eraser at the end of this pencil, there is a joyous pur-



After four years as a Poet in the Schools, Brenda Nasio, shown here in a sixth-grade class at James Lick, has found many ways to tap her kids' creativity. She says, "I love the students who feel they can't write a word and later come up with the best poems." Photo by Pamela Gerard

ple pom-pom. Her large eyes dart back and forth, and then the pom-pom bobs as she is seized with inspiration.

Nasio also sees poetry in the schools as an antidote to teen violence, a way to channel potentially dangerous impulses. "Can you imagine what would happen if students learned to write a poem about their anger rather than expressing it in violence?" she asks.

Nasio, who has been a poet for 30 years, remembers the Vermont Bread Loaf Writers Conference in 1975 as a watershed moment in the development of her own creative voice. It was there she heard John Irving read *The World According to Garp* as a work-in-progress. At Bread Loaf, she was also inspired by Pulitzer Prize-winning poet Maxine Kumin, who encouraged her to use her own experience as the basis for her work.

Three years later, Nasio was published in the prestigious *Paris Review*. Nasio also worked on the editorial staff of *Mademoiselle* magazine, and for CBS News, writing "bios and obits."

Born and raised in New Jersey, she was drawn by the lure of California from an early age. "Ever since the seventh grade, when I discovered the Beach Boys, I wanted to move out here."

In 1983, Nasio married and settled on the outskirts of Noe Valley, first on Harper Street, then on Fair Oaks. As three children arrived over the next five years, she concentrated her energies on family life.

Four years ago, writing returned to the forefront. Finding herself in the midst of a divorce, Nasio applied to be a chaperone for her son Zachary, who as a fifth-grader at Buena Vista was taking an educational field trip to Mexico. She offered to teach the children poetry as part of their enrichment experience.

Buena Vista was not only delighted to accept Nasio's offer, but encouraged her to teach at the school on an ongoing basis. While teaching at Buena Vista, Nasio compiled an anthology of the children's poetry. She also put together an exhibit of their poetry and photography that was displayed at the New Main Library.

As her own children grew and moved on from Buena Vista to James Lick, Nasio found herself moving on as well. Although her second child, Max, is in the James Lick Spanish Immersion Program and she does not teach poetry in Spanish, her eldest child Zachary will receive her

guidance in poetry at James Lick this year.

Daughter Samantha continues to have her mother as her poetry teacher at Buena Vista. "When Zachary starts high school, I'll probably follow him wherever he goes," she laughs, adding that "being a mom makes me a better poet because my children enrich my life. The sensitivity I have as a mother helps me recognize the challenges, needs, and concerns of the students in the classroom that I teach."

Back in the classroom, David has finished his poem but is too shy to read it. "You read it," he whispers, pushing his paper before Nasio. Nasio reads from a long list of "the causes and reactions of making the right decisions." "Fighting is the wrong decision," she reads. "Graduating is the right decision."

The children listen with rapt attention.

*Continued on Next Page*

## Cleaned the House

One time  
mama said:

"clean the house  
and I'll take your brothers"

So, from 8:30 to 11:00  
I cleaned

and cleaned  
and cleaned.

And when they  
finally got home  
they took out toys  
jumped on the beds  
left the phone off the hook

and mama said  
the same thing:

"clean the house  
and I'll take your  
little brothers"

and I said:

"take me."

—Lakeshia Clark

"Cleaned the House," by Lakeshia Clark, is reprinted with permission from *Beginning with Me*, a 1999 anthology of James Lick students' work edited by poet-teacher Brenda Nasio. Lakeshia is now in ninth grade at McAteer High School.

## Poems by Brenda Nasio

### opening night

for max

one wonders:

why at first  
there are endless possibilities

with the second less fear  
and it is simple

to get lost in the routine  
of the bright lights and instruments

while backstage:

nervous as a diver  
poised on the brink

ready to take the plunge  
late

you leap into the new year  
head first

*opening night* © 1990

*clay* © 1995 by Brenda Nasio

### clay

novice ceramicist  
working alongside the children  
saturday mornings  
learning the language  
of this cool medium  
of expression and  
making it take form

you elect to master  
the pot and are  
quick to discover  
coil techniques and shapes  
recalling those of george ohr  
each cupboard bears  
the prized examples  
of your accomplishment

how funny then this summer/  
a lull/not a single mask,  
vase, cup or bowl

summer  
a season chilly  
beyond recent recollection  
punctuates itself  
by the marked decline  
of your mother  
eva marie  
who now settles soundly  
against a familiar  
swathe of silk  
inside a pot of clay  
crafted by you  
unwittingly for this occasion  
the tall one  
with the highly fired glaze  
of which you were so proud





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## James Lick's Poet-in-Residence

Continued from Previous Page

After Nasio is finished, applause fills the room, and the poem's author cannot help but smile. "Some of the poems are very personal. We create a safe environment," Nasio says. "This tells the students that what they have to say is of value. There are no limits on what they can write."

She points out, however, that in order to be a poet in the schools, a teacher must be a published writer. To her surprise, Nasio finds that her students also reserve judgment until they have checked out her credentials. Luckily, she has an impressive list of credits.

In addition to the *Paris Review*, her poems have appeared in *Open Places*, *Negative Capability*, and *Amelia*, among other literary journals. Nasio's manuscript *under a pale winter sun* (now retitled *unpacking books after one move or another*) was a finalist in the National Poetry Series competition (1985) and a runner-up for the Brittingham Prize (1984). The manuscript is still awaiting a publisher. In 1988, William Stafford selected her as a Letter of Merit recipient in the Villa Montalvo poetry awards program.

For Nasio, poetry is about listening—listening to the creative voice within, listening to the words of others.

On Nov. 6, there will be an opportunity to listen to her read from her work at Cover to Cover (3812 24th St.). She'll join a dozen other poets at the 35th anniversary celebration of California Poets in the Schools, starting at 7 p.m.

The event is supported by Poets & Writers, Inc., through a grant from the James Irvine Foundation. Copies of the James Lick poetry anthology *Beginning with Me* will also be on sale. □

### missed signals

for barbara and bruce

we went there mostly in spring  
to the house (which used to be a barn)  
with a garden outside and  
a free-standing tub upstairs  
past the three bedrooms (the last one  
was mine)

the weather shifted in extremes and  
we adapted  
either sipping cups of tea  
wrapped in thick sweaters curled up  
on the rug or sunning ourselves  
on the lawn sipping bloody marys  
in our underwear (while bruce was  
in town)

in the afternoon we  
would nap in rooms of antique  
jars and lamps and needlepointed chairs  
where the windows were sealed  
with plastic against flies and  
the wind stirred through places  
loosely taped

once,  
david and mary came along  
with their dog, taffy, which we walked  
for miles past farms uphill one  
particularly hot day in may  
coming back down we noticed  
skins tied drying in a small shed

that afternoon while everyone else  
(i thought) slept  
i got up and found david  
on the couch downstairs  
he asked me if i could read his palm  
i said it wasn't in my repertoire and  
went to the kitchen for a glass of  
ice water puzzled and  
embarrassed that mary might have  
overheard

later, i told barbara and  
she just smiled

we didn't go there much in summer and  
by autumn the house was sold

months later david called to say  
we should have lunch and would i  
help him  
with an article he was writing

he never called back and now lives  
in d.c.  
with mary and taffy

bruce is in chicago and  
barbara's in new york

—Brenda Nasio

"Missed Signals" was first published in the New York Paris Review in 1978.

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## David Reynolds, Charity Auctioneer

By Rayne Wolfe and  
Collin Campbell

David Reynolds has auctioned off a pizza for \$8,000. He has rapped the gavel for front pews in churches and for quilts made by kindergarten classes. But what might be of more interest to his Noe Valley neighbors is his talent for auctioning off parking karma.

"For one hundred dollars, you may have excellent parking karma. Having never driven myself, I have oodles of parking karma to give away and customarily charge \$100—for charity, of course. Always for a good cause."

Reynolds, who is known for his wry wit and outrageous costumes, began his career in 1976 at the Wine Merchant, a wine retailer in Beverly Hills. He prepared for the job by spending three days hunched over books about wine at the Los Angeles Public Library.

Since then, he has been a wine retailer, wholesaler, sommelier, and radio commentator. His show, "The Reynolds Wine Rap," airs as a special feature on "The Food and Wine Enthusiast" Sundays at 9 a.m. on KABL Radio.

A native of London, Reynolds moved to Noe Valley 10 years ago from San Diego. He now lives with his wife at 23rd and Noe streets, where they both make "a feeble attempt" to keep the garden up.

At 46, Reynolds officiates at charity wine auctions around the country, working some 60 events per year. He is best known for his high-energy ability to rouse crowds and encourage amazing feats of generosity.

"The great thing about my job is that everyone is there to support a philanthropic cause. I just show them that it's as easy to write a check for \$5,000 as one for \$500. Besides, with \$5,000, you get applause."

Although British, he uses the American auction style and offers some interesting background on auction history in America. "You may have seen auctioneers use the honorary title of 'Colonel.' That is because, during the Civil War, President Lincoln trained a cadre of colonels to be auctioneers to travel down south to auction off the spoils of that war," says Reynolds.

"The British are known for concentrating on the 'bid,' or what someone in the audience is offering," he continues. "Americans concentrate on the 'call,' what the auctioneer is hoping to raise for the piece. The American style allows for quicker bidding."

The trick to running an exciting auction is to keep it fast and fun.

"What you try to do during the event is focus kindly on a few enthusiastic audience members," Reynolds says. "Or you try to think of a funny little scenario that will intrigue the audience."

"For example, I just recently did an event where there were several millennium packages that weren't selling at all. We had four tickets for a New Year's Eve party concert by a very, very famous singer. The starting bid was \$10,000 with absolutely no bids. So I suggested that perhaps there was someone in the audience who had relatives coming to visit for the holidays, and that by presenting this package as a gift to the house guests, they would be guaranteed a nice quiet evening alone at home while appearing the hero to their in-laws. *Bang!* A hand shot up—and I had a bid, just like that."

"When things got slow later in the auction, I would refer back to the gentleman



Do I hear \$100 for these ketchup packets once owned by the Noe Valley Voice? Neighborhood auctioneer David Reynolds can sell just about anything—but it's all for a good cause.

who didn't like his in-laws, and the evening just rolled along, peppered with good-natured ribbing about one's visiting relatives."

With his calendar filled five years out, Reynolds really appreciates coming home to relax in the neighborhood.

"I like it that there are more coffee machines than parking spaces in Noe Valley. And I especially like the feeling of living in a little village, where everything I care about is within walking distance."

He has his favorite haunts, including Caruso Wines, on 24th near Noe. "It's really a superb shop, where you can literally walk in with \$10 and walk out with any one of 30 lovely bottles to choose from. It's a marvelous resource."

And he couldn't live without Lisa at Sea Breeze Cleaners on Castro Street. "Sometimes I'll run in with a crazy outfit made from kimonos and need it cleaned for an event the next day. Lisa just

takes care of me. Never a reproach or growl. She is an angel of mercy."

Suitably dressed, and wearing his Elton John-style eyeglasses, Reynolds is ever ready to climb the steps to yet another charity auction. He has officiated locally for the San Francisco School, San Francisco Opera Guild, the Junior League of Napa and Sonoma, Sonoma Vintners and Growers, and the Sonoma-Cutrer Make-a-Wish Foundation, among others.

This Nov. 20, Reynolds will take his usual place as auctioneer for the Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra's seventh annual fundraising auction gala—called *Capriccioso!*—at the Palace Hotel in San Francisco, where he will once again invite, solicit, sell, summon, and cajole guests to get in touch with their own benevolence.

"And if that doesn't work, I still have some parking karma left to auction off." □

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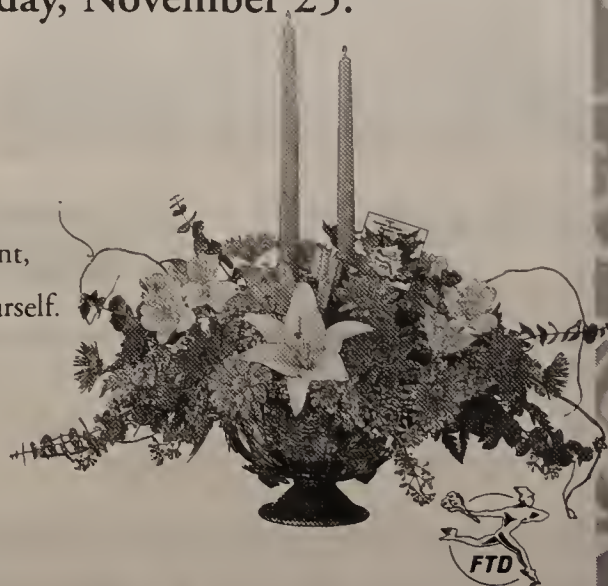
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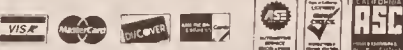
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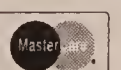
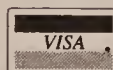
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# To Belfast and Back with Global Exchange

Diary of a 'Reality Tour' to Northern Ireland

By Alex Nicole Leviton

I was born to have an interest in Northern Ireland. My birthday falls on July 12, the day the infamous Orange Order marches throughout Northern Ireland each year. And I'd always wondered about the place—was it Irish, British, or both? Still, I didn't want to visit Northern Ireland just as a tourist. I'd rather see it as a student of its culture, politics, and people.

So when I had three weeks off in July, I called Global Exchange. Global Exchange describes itself as a research, education, and action center advocating political, economic, and social justice. Most of us know the organization through its "fair trade" arts and crafts store on 24th Street. But have you heard about its Reality Tours, study seminars designed to build people-to-people ties in such diverse places as Northern Ireland, Cuba, and South Africa?

After I checked out Global's summer schedule, I decided to go on the "Beyond Conflict" tour to Northern Ireland from July 5 to 19. The land cost of the trip was \$1,800 and included transportation within Ireland, accommodations, two meals a day, all program activities, a knowledgeable trip leader, and a whole slew of reading materials.

Admittedly not for everyone, the political part of the trip was custom-made for me, a writer interested in politics. I opted to spend some time on my

and run the government.

As I found out while in Belfast, July 12—my birth date—is an important milestone. It's the anniversary of the 1690 Battle of the Boyne. In that notorious battle, the Protestant William of Orange defeated the Catholic King James, thus cementing British dominion over the local Irish majority for the next 300 years. Despite several Irish uprisings throughout the centuries, it was not until after the 1916 Easter Uprising that Ireland began its successful War of Independence.

To put an end to six years of war, Ireland declared a truce in 1922 after regaining only 26 of its original 32 counties. Of Ulster's nine counties in the north, the six predominantly Protestant counties remained under British rule. It was a quick fix in a desperate time. No one had any idea how much bloodshed this division would generate.

The Republic of Ireland became a free state after breaking all ties to Great Britain in 1949. Northern Ireland, however, has stayed divided. Its 60 percent Protestant and 40 percent Catholic population has suffered the loss of 3,600 lives—in a nation of only 1.6 million people. (In the U.S. that figure would translate to 500,000.)

The more recent "Troubles" began brewing in 1968 with the Catholic civil rights movement. In 1972, during a peaceful march, the British Army killed 14 unarmed civilians. The Irish Republican Army (IRA), instigators of many an uprising from the early 1900s, sprang back into existence. Organized (military) and sectarian (civilian) killings again became rampant. More than 2,000 died in the decade from 1969 to 1979 alone.

Although the killings have lessened since an IRA ceasefire in 1994 and last year's Good Friday Agreement, Northern Ireland is still a country facing a



If you visit Northern Ireland in mid-July, expect to see the Orangemen marching through the streets of Derry/Londonderry.

quickly learned the code: If we saw the orange, green, and white of the Irish flag, we were in a nationalist part of town. The red, white, and blue of the Union Jack denoted the Unionists, or Protestants. Although peaceful murals popped up on both sides, most of the murals we saw were filled with violent images of men wearing masks and carrying machine guns.

During the day, we talked with the local residents and looked for other opportunities to learn. At night, we went back to our host families, where we continued to ask questions and, if only for a few days, feel a part of the West Belfast community.

Along the way, our group had eye-opening meetings with Sinn Féin, the working-class republican party often called the political wing of the IRA; the SDLP, the political party of John Hume, winner of the Nobel Peace Prize; and the Falls Women's Center, a Catholic organization with crosscultural ties to Protestant women's groups. Most revealing, however, was the chance to see up-close and personal the two main adversaries in the Northern Ireland conflict: the politicians and the prisoners.

## Racism Rears Its Ugly Head

On July 14, the day before a section of the historic Good Friday Agreement was to be decided upon by Northern Ireland's parliament, we found ourselves at Stormont Castle—a misnomer for the British parliamentary building in Northern Ireland. The parliamentary debate included Gerry Adams of Sinn Féin and Nobel Peace Prize-winner David Trimble of the UUP, the almost exclusively

Protestant Ulster Unionist Party. During much of the hullabaloo, however, our group got stuck in an "informational" meeting with two politicians from the UUP.

Bernie, a retired engineer in our group, had already likened the feel of Northern Ireland to that of the American South during the civil rights struggle of the '60s. And we certainly got proof on this day.

Chatting away about work habits of Roman Catholics (not Catholics, mind you, Roman Catholics), one of the UUP councilmen said, and I quote, "They were beaver away like nig---s." As our little group of left-leaning liberals traded huge double-takes, the other councilman shot the first a look, and the speaker chuckled sheepishly. "Oh, yes, I probably shouldn't say that naughty word. Badgers. They were beaver away like badgers."

Even more astonishing than our journey into political racism was our foray into Long Kesh prison, the place where 10 prisoners died during 1981 hunger strikes over prison conditions. For this visit, we broke into two groups of three.

## IRA Prisoner Serves Cokes

My group spoke with Eric, a former IRA member who'd spent 20 of his last 24 years as a prisoner in Long Kesh. He'd spent 15 years the first time for "getting" an officer of the RUC (the Royal Ulster Constabulary, the 93 percent Protestant police force accused of torture by the United Nations). After four years of freedom, Eric returned to Long Kesh after a failed attempt at another "job."

*Continued on Next Page*



Even the houses in Belfast express fierce loyalties: This one shows the red, white, and blue of the Union Jack.

Photos by Alex Nicole Leviton

own in the far north of Ireland, and then meet with the rest of the group in Belfast *after* those tumultuous marches. Thankfully, this year's marches saw little violence, and I joined the group without incident on July 13 in Belfast.

## A History of 'The Troubles'

Before starting my journey, I had read the reams of facts and statistics on Northern Ireland provided by Nadya Connolly Williams, my ever-helpful tour coordinator back in San Francisco. I had always kept up with "The Troubles," as the political situation in Northern Ireland is often euphemistically referred to, but still didn't have a clear grasp of the situation.

The larger context for the Troubles goes back 900 years. The British colonized Ireland starting in the 12th century. Much later, in the 16th and 17th centuries, Presbyterians from Scotland were sent over to confiscate Irish lands

long journey toward peace.

## Signs and Graffiti Everywhere

Our small group of five Americans and an intelligent, charming Irish tour leader started the Belfast journey at CulturLann, an Irish cultural center in West Belfast, the mainly nationalist (read: Catholic) section of town. My companions were Pat and Bernie, a progressive Californian couple who had met in a retirement community; Susan, a lawyer from Los Angeles; Nancy, a librarian from Miami; and Karen, the trip leader, a politically active journalist from West Belfast who knew the answers to practically every question we asked.

Within minutes of entering her neighborhood, we were confronted by signs of the conflict. Everywhere we looked we saw political banners and graffiti, curb paintings, and huge murals sprawled across the sides of buildings. We

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Alex Leviton (right) takes a break from the intense politics of Belfast to enjoy free time with her Global Exchange travel companions Nancy and Pat.

## Inside Belfast

*Continued from Previous Page*

The way Eric talked was the same way an American soldier would talk about his stint in the military. He said the IRA had a strict code of discipline and an age limit for joining, and that it treated men and women equally. Eric even admitted that a few women officers had "busted his chops."

Eric also got a pretty good beating from the RUC when he was caught the second time around. (In fact, he was nearly beaten to death, one of our homestay hosts told us.) Eric shrugged this off, saying, "I've got a job to do, and they've got a job to do." He said he wouldn't have held it against his captors if they'd killed him.

But nowadays, he and the other political prisoners at Long Kesh are treated with kid gloves. All of them read voraciously, and they've published several poetry books together. One man is writing a book about the last IRA member who was sentenced to hang in 1942. They wear their own clothes—one of the perks brought about by the hunger strikes—and are up-to-date on the political situation.

We talked with Eric for almost two hours—over the Cokes, tea, and cookies he offered us. Save for the guards and elaborate check-in procedures, this place could have been Lovejoy's Tea Room.

One of the things Eric, who is now in his early 40s, is starting to miss from his 20 years behind bars is not having a family. He met a woman when he was on the outside, but she wasn't willing to wait the 10 years or so before he got out. Through Sinn Fein's work in repatriating prisoners, he would like to somehow work in the community, and he wants to raise a family. One of the goals of the Good Friday Agreement is to release political prisoners whose paramilitary affiliates have declared a ceasefire. If all goes well for him, Eric will have a chance to try out this new life by the year 2001.

### Next Stop, Havana

As I neared the end of the trip, I thanked our guide for the interviews, noting that Americans sure couldn't get that kind of reality check by watching two minutes a week of TV coverage. Physically being in Northern Ireland gave me the chance to experience the culture in a way no reading or studying could.

In Belfast, I'd heard the helicopters buzzing around each night and seen the surveillance equipment atop Divis Flats, the fortified British Army installation.

I'd met some of the warmest, friendliest people I'd ever known—those who picked me up hitchhiking (which I wouldn't do anywhere else in the world), new friends who invited me into their homes, and children who offered to show me around town. But I'd also met lovely old ladies who turned to ice and hissed through clenched smiles, "Not one inch," when asked about giving back rights to Catholics.

After my education by fire in Northern Ireland, I returned to San Francisco already looking forward to my next Global Exchange trip. Once home, I was excited to hear that Karen, our tour leader, would be in Cuba next year. Who knows, I just might visit for my birthday in the year 2000. □

*For information about Global Exchange tours, call 415-255-7296. Or check the group's web site: [www.globalexchange.org](http://www.globalexchange.org).*

## GLOBAL EXCURSIONS

Global Exchange offers tours throughout the year in all areas of travel and interest. There's even a bicycle tour to Cuba. Along with the usual activities—sightseeing, sampling local food—you will get a close-up look at a country's culture and politics. Upcoming trips include:

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**Mexico: The Millennium in Chiapas**  
 Dec. 28, 1999, to Jan. 5, 2000  
 \$850 from Mexico City

**Palestine and Israel: Peace in the New Millennium**  
 Jan. 10–24, 2000  
 \$1,800 from Jerusalem; \$1,500 for students

**Ireland: St. Patrick's Day in the North of Ireland**  
 March 6–20, 2000  
 \$1,800 from Dublin; \$1,500 for students

### TRIPS TO CUBA

**International Latin American Film Festival**  
 Dec. 1–10, 1999  
 \$1,500 from Cancun, Mexico

**The Millennium in Havana**  
 Dec. 27, 1999, to Jan. 4, 2000  
 \$2,000 from Mexico City; \$1,400 land only

**Following Che's Footsteps**  
 March 18–28, 2000  
 \$1,500 from Cancun, Mexico

Global Exchange also offers monthly trips to Cuba that feature dancing and percussion workshops or Spanish-language classes at the University of Havana. You can read about these trips at [www.globalexchange.org](http://www.globalexchange.org). Or call 415-255-7296. Or drop by the store at 4018 24th St. and ask for a brochure.





Noe Valley resident Jay Rosenblatt's short film *Restricted* plays at the Roxie Cinema Nov. 5, as part of the "Paranoia Will Destroy Ya" program featured in this year's Film Arts Festival.

## SHORT TAKES

### If You Have a Hammer

The Alvarado Elementary School PTA wants you—for painting, cleanup, and repair work.

The parent-teacher group is reaching out to the community for help with its annual Work Day on Saturday, Nov. 6, at the school at 625 Douglass St. Projects on the to-do list include gardening, cleaning up graffiti, painting benches, cleaning carpets, and repairing broken items.

"It's about bringing our schools back into the community and our community back into the school," said Dianne Platner, a member of the PTA executive board who is helping organize the event.

Besides getting their hands dirty, volunteers will have a chance to meet teachers, administrators, and district personnel, Platner said.

The event starts at 9 a.m. and runs through 3 p.m. Volunteers are welcome to bring gloves and gardening tools, as well as a dish for the potluck lunch.

For more information, call Platner at 648-6462.

### Flush with Success

If you like flushing money down the drain, just wait until after Dec. 30 to replace your old toilet. That's the deadline to apply for the San Francisco Water Department's \$50 toilet rebate program.

Here's how it works: If you replace your old commode with a new toilet that uses 1.6 gallons per flush, the Water Department will cover the first \$50 of the replacement cost.

"This is designed to encourage homeowners to replace their inefficient toilets with more water-efficient ones," said John Mullane, the department's manager of customer service.

The average customer will save 29 gallons of water a day and \$70 a year in water and sewer costs by switching to a "low-flow" loo, Mullane said.

In the past four years, the Water Department has helped San Francisco residents replace about 43,000 toilets.

For more information, call 923-2473.

### Free Tutoring at St. Aidan's

Kids in grades 2 through 5 can get free tutoring after school at St. Aidan's Episcopal Church in Diamond Heights.

The program is held on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:45 to 5:30 p.m. Students spend the first hour focusing on

schoolwork with adult and teenage volunteers. In the last 30 minutes, children turn to a group project designed to provide constructive learning.

And there's even a snack. For more information on the program, held at the church at 101 Gold Mine Drive (near the Safeway on Diamond Heights Boulevard), contact program coordinator Kate Flexer at 285-9540.

### It's Only Natural

Even babies like massages. That's the idea behind the infant massage class being offered at Natural Resources, the pregnancy, childbirth, and parenting center at 1307 Castro St. (near 24th).

The weekly, four-session class starts Monday, Nov. 1, at 2 p.m., and costs \$70.

Also on tap in November at Natural Resources: a workshop in infant and child CPR (Nov. 13, 12:30 p.m.), a 22-hour training for labor assistants, a seminar in postpartum care for childbirth professionals, and a mother and baby music class called "Rhythm Kids." The music class comes in four- and eight-week sessions, starting Nov. 2.

For further details or to sign up, call 550-2611.

### Lights, Camera, Festival

Some of the Bay Area's edgiest movie makers will converge on San Francisco for the 15th annual Film Arts Festival set for Nov. 3-10.

Among the 86 filmmakers taking part is Noe Valley resident Jay Rosenblatt. His short film *Drop* (made with fellow Noe Valleyan Dina Ciraulo) screens at the Roxie Cinema Nov. 4 at 10 p.m. A second Rosenblatt short, *Restricted* (part of the "Paranoia Will Destroy Ya" program), plays at the Roxie at 6 p.m. on Nov. 5.

The festival has been a launching pad for many acclaimed and controversial works such as *Tongues Untied*, *All the Vermeers in New York*, and *Naked Spaces*. Last year's *Regret to Inform* by Barbara Sonneborn was nominated for an Academy Award for best documentary.

For tickets and more information, call 552-FILM or log on to [www.filmarts.org](http://www.filmarts.org). The Roxie is located at 16th and Valencia.

### From Brazil, with Love

It's a fluid mixture of dance, acrobatics, martial arts, and music — and *capoeira* is coming to Noe Valley.

On Nov. 6, students from the ABADÁ Capoeira teen program will perform the 300-year-old Brazilian art form at James Lick Middle School, at 1220 Noe St. at Clipper. Joining the students will be the

*Continued on Next Page*



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## SHORT TAKES

*Continued from Previous Page*

teen program director, Mestranda Márcia Cigarra, and her performance group Axé Abadá Capoeira. Also set to perform: two prominent Brazilian capoeiristas—Mestrando Morcego of Rio de Janeiro and Peixe Cru of São Paulo. The performance starts at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$12.

Axe Abada Capoeira, Morcego and Cru will be back at James Lick on Nov. 7 for the eighth annual *batizado* (baptism) ceremony, in which new students are welcomed and given a nickname. That show starts at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$5.

For more information, call 284-6196 or check out the site [www.abada.org](http://www.abada.org).

### A Glen Park Gala

Here's one way to do some holiday shopping and aid a good cause at the same time. Attend the 14th annual Glenridge Cooperative Nursery School Silent and Live Auction Gala.

Attendees will be able to bid on gift certificates from Target and C.P. Shades, buy a dinner for two at Eos or a two-night stay at the Westin St. Francis, and compete for tickets to Slim's, the Fillmore, the San Francisco Opera, and a 49ers game.

The proceeds will help fund the operating costs of the school (located in Glen Canyon), as well as provide scholarships for disadvantaged children. At 29 years old, Glenridge is one of the oldest cooperative nursery schools in the Bay Area.

The gala, which will be held Nov. 20 at the Hall of Flowers in Golden Gate Park, will include a complimentary bar and an international buffet—plus music by the Saturn V. Tickets are \$15.

For more information, call 550-1819.

### Exhibit on Castro Sweep

A decade has passed since the night of Oct. 6, 1989, when 200 San Francisco police officers swept through the Castro and broke up a march by gay and lesbian activists protesting the federal government's neglect of people with AIDS.

Officers declared the area an illegal assembly and violently cleared at least seven blocks of all pedestrians and protesters. Three years of legal proceedings followed. In the end, only one police officer was disciplined, but the city paid out \$250,000 to settle lawsuits brought by victims.

To mark the 10-year anniversary, an exhibit titled "Police Riot '89: Remember the Castro Sweep" will be on display through Nov. 30 at A Different Light Bookstore, 489 Castro St.

The exhibit, organized by the Castro Sweep Project, will feature photographs by Rick Gerharter and Marc Geller, graphics by Boy with Arms Akimbo, and artifacts from the Gay and Lesbian Historical Society of Northern California.

A web site is also being developed in conjunction with the display. Organizers invite witnesses of the sweep to recount their memories and post them on the site. For details, visit <http://members.aol.com/SFPDRiot/sweep.html> or send e-mail to [SFPDRiot@aol.com](mailto:SFPDRiot@aol.com).

### Fairmount a Hidden Gem

"I consider it a diamond in the rough. We have a great secret in the Noe Valley and Glen Park area," said PTA president Chris Loughran.

The secret is Fairmount, the public elementary school at 65 Chenery St. (be-

tween 30th and Randall). But Loughran, who has a son in first grade and a daughter entering kindergarten, is spilling the beans.

"We have a terrific Spanish immersion program—my kids are going to be biliterate and bilingual," she said. "What I like too is the principal [Linda Luevano] and the teachers, and how they look at an individual child's needs."

Loughran also reports a steady rise in student test scores. "Last year, we made the greatest gains in math scores of any school in the district."

She invites parents of children who are approaching kindergarten age to come see for themselves. The school will conduct guided tours for Fall 2000 enrollments on Wednesdays in November and December (through Dec. 15), from 9 to 10 a.m. Visitors will get to meet with the principal, view classes in session, talk with other parents, and of course ask questions about the academic programs.

For more information, call the school at 695-5669, or just drop by on a Wednesday morning.

### Turkey Day Extravaganza

The whole neighborhood has been invited to a Thanksgiving party at the Noe Valley Ministry.

The smorgasbord and potluck dinner on Sunday, Nov. 21, is another chance to check out the Ministry's timeline project, launched in September. The timeline traces 111 years of history in the church, the neighborhood, the country, the world.

Partygoers will be invited to scribble in their personal recollections on the timeline posters, which have been filling up with entries since the project was unveiled in September.

"The correlation of more than 100 years of history has yielded a fascinating portrait of the last century," said Keenan Kelsey, the ministry's pastor. "It's a wonderful portal into the next millennium."

Neighborhood restaurants will be on hand to give tastings. The party will also include representatives of the dozens of programs offered at the ministry—from yoga and tai chi to jazz dance and Alcoholics Anonymous.

The event runs from noon to 3 p.m.

For more information, call 282-2317 or log on to [www.noevalleyministry.org](http://www.noevalleyministry.org).

### S.F. Pride Parade 2000

The San Francisco Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Transgender Pride Parade Committee is seeking new members to help plan Pride 2000, the millennial gay pride celebration in June of next year.

"Bi's, women, and TG's [transgender persons] are especially wanted," says committee co-chair Edward Goehring, "and our board of directors in particular needs more women."

To join the organization, call the committee at 864-3733 or e-mail [sfpride@aol.com](mailto:sfpride@aol.com). Goehring says join as soon as possible if you'd like to vote in the upcoming board of directors election—the cutoff date is Nov. 1.

*This month's Short Takes were written by Mark Robinson, Kathy Dalle-Molle, and Sally Smith.*








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# November 1999

**OCT. 28:** Noe Valley resident ZACK ROGOW joins John High in a poetry reading. 7:30 pm. Modern Times Bookstore, 888 Valencia St. 282-9246.

**OCT. 28:** Upper Noe Neighbors sponsors a POLITICAL Q & A with the mayoral candidates, including Clint Reilly. 7:30 pm. Upper Noe Rec Center, Day & Sanchez. 285-0473.

**OCT. 29:** Upper Noe Recreation Center holds a HALLOWEEN CARNIVAL for kids 5 and up, featuring games, prizes, and a costume parade. 3-6 pm. Day & Sanchez. 695-5011.

**OCT. 30:** The FAMILY HALLOWEEN FEST for kids 2 to 12 features Dr. Randallstein's Laboratory and the Bone Room. 11 am-3 pm. Randall Museum, 199 Museum Way, 554-9600.

**OCT. 30:** "BOO AT THE ZOO" is a Halloween event featuring a haunted nature trail. Costumes encouraged, but no masks, please (they could frighten the animals). 11 am-3 pm. San Francisco Zoo, 1 Zoo Road. 705-0761.

**OCT. 30:** Dr. Julianne Malveaux will discuss "The Corporate Stake in the Breast Cancer Epidemic" at a town meeting with BREAST CANCER ACTION. 1-4 pm. First Unitarian, 1187 Franklin St. 392-4400. BCA: 243-9301.

**OCT. 31:** The Real Food Co. invites kids under 13 to come have a photo taken and enter a HALLOWEEN Costume Contest. 3939 24th St. 282-9500.

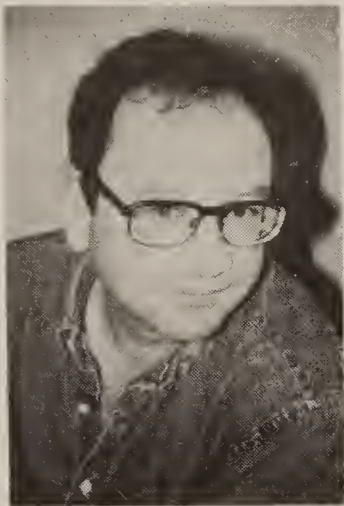
**OCT. 31 & NOV. 6 & 20:** The INA CHALIS Opera Ensemble performs Strauss's *Die Fledermaus*. 4 pm. Community Music Center, 544 Capp St. 647-6015.

**NOV. 1-22:** Natural Resources offers an INFANT MASSAGE class four Mondays at 2 pm, and a class in infant and child CPR on Nov. 13 at 12:30 pm. 1307 Castro St. 550-2611.

**NOV. 1-30:** "Police Riot '89: Remembering the CASTRO SWEEP" is an exhibit of photos and artifacts commemorating the event. A Different Light Bookstore, 489 Castro St. 431-0891.

**NOV. 2:** VOTE 7 am-8 pm. Call 554-4385 to find out where to cast a ballot.

**NOV. 2:** A mother and baby MUSIC CLASS, "Rhythm Kids," runs in four- to eight-week sessions for ages 18 months to 4 years. Natural Resources, 1307 Castro St. 550-2611.



Muralist Daniel Galvez will tell his *Barrio Story* and lead a free family workshop at the Mission Library on Nov. 13. Photo by Joan Galvez.

**NOV. 2:** Gallery Luscombe gives a reception for its "Día de los Muertos" altars, to honor the Day of the Dead PARADE on 24th Street in the Mission. 6-8 pm. 3040 24th St. 285-8545.

**NOV. 2, 9 & 30:** The Noe Valley Library hosts STORY TIME for pre-schoolers 3 to 5. 10 am. 451 Jersey St. 695-5095.

**NOV. 2-30:** St. Aidan's STUDY BUD-DIES is a free after-school tutoring program for 2nd through 5th graders. Tues. and Thurs., 3:45-5:30 pm. St. Aidan's Episcopal Church, 101 Goldmine Drive. Call Kate Flexer at 285-9540.

**NOV. 3:** The Adventist HEALTH VAN offers free blood pressure testing and low-cost cholesterol screening. 10 am-4 pm. Bell Market lot. 775-2570.

**NOV. 3:** "OSTEOPOROSIS: What Men and Women Need to Know" is the topic of a UCSF Brown Bag Lecture. 12:10-1 pm. Health Sciences West, Room 300, 500 Parnassus Ave. 476-2557.

**NOV. 3:** Local author PETER RUTTEN introduces his *Bot Guide: The Internet's Hottest Tools That Work the Web for You*. 7 pm. Cover to Cover Book-sellers, 3812 24th St. 282-8080.

**NOV. 3-7:** The 15th annual FILM ARTS FESTIVAL features the work of two Noe Valley residents: Jay Rosenblatt's *Restricted* at 6 pm on Nov. 5, and *Drop*, created with Dina Ciraulo, at 10 pm on Nov. 4. Roxie Cinema, 16th & Valencia. 641-8220.

**NOV. 3, 10 & 17:** The Noe Valley Library holds LAPSITS for infants, toddlers, and their parents. 7 pm. 451 Jersey St. 695-5095.



Michael Manning of the Manning/Kassin/Darter Trio, performing Nov. 6 at the Noe Valley Music Series, has been called the "world's greatest bassist." Photo by Jeffrey Newbury.

**NOV. 4-13:** The Nothing But Squad performs humorous MODERN DANCE with spoken word. Thurs.-Sat., 8 pm. Dancers' Group Studio Theater, 3221 22nd St. 824-5044.

**NOV. 5-14:** Random Acts Theater Company performs a modern, gender-bending version of Shakespeare's *HAMLET*. 8 pm, Fri., Nov. 5 & 12; Sat., Nov. 13; Sun., Nov. 14. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 337-8963.

**NOV. 6:** The Mothers of Twins Club hosts a GARAGE SALE featuring two of everything. 9 am-3 pm. St. John of God, 5th Ave. at Irving. 440-8946.

**NOV. 6:** Voice writer Janis Cooke Newman conducts a TRAVEL WRITING workshop from 10 am-4 pm. Cover to Cover, 3812 24th St. 282-8080.

**NOV. 6:** To celebrate the 35th anniversary of California Poets in Schools, 13 poet-teachers will read from their work, starting at 7 pm. Cover to Cover Book-sellers, 3812 24th St. 282-8080.

**NOV. 6:** Early holiday shoppers are invited to a CHRISTMAS BOUTIQUE to benefit the Dominican Sisters. 10 am-5 pm. ICA Auditorium, 24th & Guerrero.

**NOV. 6:** Coro Hispano de San Francisco and Conjunto Nuevo Mundo present a *Día de los Muertos* concert at Mission Dolores. 8 pm. 16th & Dolores. 431-4234.

**NOV. 6:** The Manning/Kassin/Darter Trio performs a CONCERT of improvised music. 8:15 pm. Noe Valley Music Series at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 454-5238.

**NOV. 6 & 7:** ABADÁ CAPOEIRA presents "The Spirit of Brazil," performed by students in the teen program on Sat. at 7 pm, and the 8th annual *Batizado* baptism ceremony Sun. at 2 pm. James Lick School, 1220 Noe St. 284-6196.

**NOV. 6:** The annual Alvarado School WORK DAY offers everyone in the community a chance to help clean, garden, and fix up one of our neighborhood schools. A potluck lunch will be served. 9 am-3 pm. 625 Douglass St. Dianne Platner, 648-6462.

**NOV. 7:** The International Sivananda Yoga Vedanta Centre offers a free OPEN HOUSE featuring postures, breathing, relaxation, and meditation. From 10:30 am. 1200 Arguello Blvd. 681-2731.

**NOV. 7:** Alex Woo's one-act COMEDY, *Post-Coitals, Pre-Nuptials*, is read at Cell Space. 4 pm. 2050 Bryant St. 401-9768.



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# Calendar

**NOV. 7:** Retired Beverly Hills librarian MICHAEL CART will be at Cover to Cover from 3:30 to 5 pm, signing *Tomorrowland*, a collection of millennium stories for teens. He and bookstore owner Nicky Salan will also discuss the best in literature for children and young adults at Teacher's Night, 5:30 to 8 pm. 3812 24th St. To reserve a spot and dinner (\$8), call 282-8080.

**NOV. 7:** The S.F. Children's Chorus, under the baton of Candace Forest, performs a fall CONCERT. 4 pm. Community Music Center, 544 Capp St. 647-6015.

**NOV. 7 & 14:** The PUPPETRY extravaganza, *Objects in Predicaments*, by Liebe Wetzel of Lunatique Fantastique, is for all ages. 1:30 pm. The Marsh, 1062 Valencia St. 826-5750, ext. 2.

**NOV. 7 & 21:** A free story time and GARDEN WALK for children ages 4 to 8 and their parents begins at 10:30 am in the library at Strybing Arboretum. Golden Gate Park. 661-1316, ext. 303.

**NOV. 8:** A hands-on introduction to JULIA CAMERON'S *The Artist's Way* begins at 6:30 pm. You must bring the text with you to participate. Call Susan at 206-0760 for location/reservations.

**NOV. 11:** Gabriela Network's Purple Rose Campaign is a U.S./Philippine WOMEN'S SOLIDARITY organization; learn more at the Radical Women's dinner meeting. 6:30 pm. New Valencia Hall, 1908 Mission St. 864-1278.

**NOV. 11:** Jamestown Community Center's fourth annual "SPOKEN WORDS" evening of poetry, stories, and music runs from 7 to 10 pm. Café Que Tal, 1005 Guerrero St. 647-4709.

**NOV. 11:** Judith "Jack" Halberstam discusses *The Drag King Book*. 7:30 pm. Modern Times Bookstore, 888 Valencia St. 282-9246.

**NOV. 11-DEC. 12:** MARGA GOMEZ performs her piece *Jaywalker*. Wed. - Sat., 8 pm; Sun. 7 pm. Theater Rhinoceros, 2926 16th St. 861-5079.

**NOV. 13:** MURALIST Daniel Galvez shows slides as part of the ongoing Family Saturdays at the Mission Branch Library. 1-3 pm. 300 Bartlett St. Reservations required: 695-5090.

**NOV. 13:** MOLLY KATZEN, of *Moosewood Cookbook* fame, introduces *Honest Pretzels*. 2 to 4 pm. Cover to Cover, 3812 24th St. 282-8080.

**NOV. 13:** A gala DINNER DANCE and auction benefit St. Paul's retrofitting fund. Call 648-7538 for information.

**NOV. 13:** Noe Valley-based SONGWRITER Steve August celebrates the release of his first full-length album, *Happiness the Hero*. Hotel Utah, 4th & Bryant. 826-4696.

**NOV. 13 & 14:** SANTA PAWS will pose with you and your pet at the SPCA. 10 am-3 pm. Learning Center, 243 Alabama St. 522-3521.

**NOV. 14:** The Emyrean Ensemble performs Ravel's Piano Trio at the Noe Valley CHAMBER MUSIC Series. 4 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 333-9444.

**NOV. 14:** Music on the Hill presents the Del Sol STRING QUARTET in a recital of works by Piazzolla, D'Rivera, Mortaro, and Brahms. 7 pm. St. Kevin's Church, 704 Cortland Ave. 241-1515.

**NOV. 16:** FILMS for preschoolers screen at 10 and 11 am. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St. 695-5095.

**NOV. 18:** The San Francisco History Association hosts a slide presentation on "The Golden Gate INTERNATIONAL EXPOSITION: The Treasure Island Fair, 1939-1940." 7 pm. The Cannery (third floor), 2801 Leavenworth St. 750-9986.



Eclipse Dance Theater brings enough "Passion" to warm a winter solstice celebration at Dancers' Group Studio Nov. 19-21. Photo by Steven J. Gelberg.

**NOV. 18-21:** The S.F. HIP-HOP Dance Fest 1999 features performers from around the Bay Area. 8 pm. Theater Artaud, 450 Florida St. 621-7797.

**NOV. 19 & 20:** Element DANCE Theater performs "Civi(lies)ed," an exploration of the contestable border between the animal and the human. 8 pm. Dance Mission, 3316 24th St. 826-4441.

**NOV. 19-21:** Over 250 artists will exhibit at the CONTEMPORARY CRAFTS Market, held for the first time at the Cow Palace. Fri., 10 am-8 pm; Sat. and Sun., 10 am-6 pm. 2600 Geneva St. 995-4925.

**NOV. 19-21:** Dancers' Group Studio Theater performs *Passion*, a WINTER SOLSTICE celebration. 8 pm, Fri. & Sat.; 7 pm, Sun. 3221 22nd St. 824-5044

**NOV. 20:** A discussion of "You and Your Adult Children" is featured at the monthly meeting of the Older Women's League (OWL). 10:30 am-12:30 pm. Call 989-4422 for location.

**NOV. 20 & 21:** The ICA HOLIDAY FAIR features handmade crafts, international folk art, gourmet goodies, and photos with Santa. ICA High School, 24th & Guerrero. 824-2052.

**NOV. 21:** The Noe Valley Ministry celebrates its TIMELINE project with a Thanksgiving smorgasbord from noon to 3 pm. 1021 Sanchez St. 282-2317.

**NOV. 22:** Robert Coffman reads TRUMAN CAPOTE'S *A Thanksgiving Visitor* at 7 pm. Theater Rhinoceros, 2925 16th St. 861-5079.

**NOV. 26-OEC. 11:** ODC/San Francisco performs *The Velveteen Rabbit*, choreographed by KT Nelson, and narrated by Geoff Hoyle. Yerba Buena Center for the Arts Theater, 700 Howard St. Call 978-2787 for times and dates.

**DEC. 2:** The Mechanics' Institute hosts a lecture and discussion with Dr. Hal Sarr: "The NEW MILLENNIUM: On the Edge of Apocalypse?" 6 pm. 57 Post St. 393-0114.

## Your Calendar Items Are Due Before the Next Millennium

The next *Noe Valley Voice*, the December 1999/January 2000 issue, will hit the streets on Dec. 2, 1999. The double issue will include calendar events for Dec. 2 through Jan. 31, 2000, assuming Noe Valley still exists in Y2K. The deadline for items is **Nov. 15, 1999.**

You can mail your notices to the *Noe Valley Voice* at 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114. Or e-mail calendar items (only) to **zabarska@aol.com.**

For last-minute changes or questions, call Karol at 285-6347. Thanks for helping us out.

**OEC. 4:** A Little Elves' GIFT MAKING WORKSHOP for children ages 6 to 12 (ages 3 to 5 with an adult) also features photos with Santa. Limited to the first 50 children. 1-3:30 pm. St. Aidan's Church, 5300 Diamond Heights Blvd. 285-9540.



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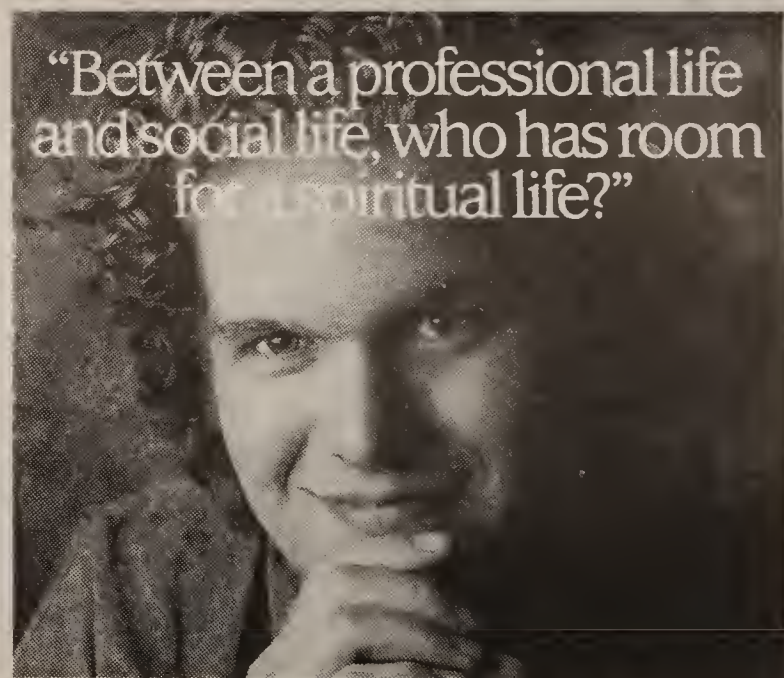
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# Traveling Companion Of Choice: The Noe Valley Voice



Here are Laurel and Grant Paul huddling under the ancient Poul nabrone Dolmen in County Clare, Ireland. The photo was accepted for publication despite Laurel's confession that she had defected to the Sunset. We did it out of respect for her mum, Lynn Thompson, who maintains her Noe Valley citizenship.



Longtime Noe residents Owen, Laurie, Sara, and Dylan Baker-Flynn couldn't resist visiting "The Castro" in Providence, R.I., especially after they read in the *Rhode Island Monthly* that the town's new coffeehouse was "named after the eclectic San Francisco neighborhood." Owen swears, "I am not making that up. They really said that!"

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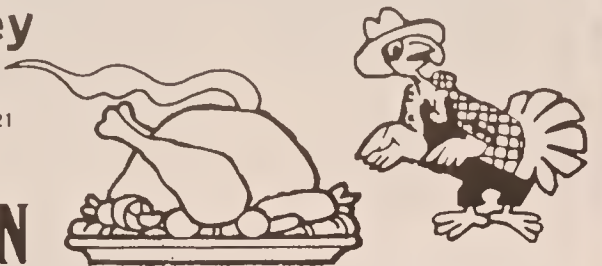
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## NOE KIDS

### A Tale of Two Farmers' Markets

By Janis Cooke Newman

"How much you want?" the man with the cleaver asks me.

"About a pound," I tell him.

The man thwacks the cleaver down on the midsection of an enormous fish. My son Alex's eyes are huge, and I suspect he's seriously thinking about becoming a fishmonger when he grows up.

"That's \$3.50," the man with the cleaver says, handing me a pound of yellowtail tuna. Only \$3.50 for tuna steaks hacked to order, I think. No wonder everybody loves the Alemany Farmers' Market.

It happens every autumn. I don't know whether it's the chilly nights, the piles of pumpkins in front of my corner grocery, or the fact that Thanksgiving is bearing down on us, but suddenly all I want to do is cook. The calendar flips over to November, and I become obsessed with butternut squash and bear's head mushrooms, orange sweet potatoes and French butter pears. And in the fall, there's no better place to feed that obsession than at a farmers' market.

Today Alex and I are visiting San Francisco's two big Saturday markets—the old-time Alemany Farmers' Market off Bayshore Boulevard, and the upstart Ferry Plaza Farmers' Market along the Embarcadero. These markets are about as different as sorrel and oregano.

At Alemany at the crack of dawn—official hours are 6 a.m. to 5 p.m.—I toss the tuna into my wheeled cart as a dad in a dashiki shows his two small sons a writhing box of live crayfish.

"Do they bite?" asks one of the little boys. The man with the cleaver lets out a sinister laugh.

Alex and I walk past iridescent pink snappers and angry blue-claw crabs, rough-shelled oysters and slick squid. Just beyond the fish stand, we come to the live poultry truck, where brown chickens and small game birds poke

their beaks out of wire cages.

"Can we get one?" asks Alex.

"Not today," I tell him. Even my autumnal obsession does not extend to plucking my own bird.

From behind us we hear furious squawking. Somebody's chicken has escaped from its paper bag and is now hiding under a minivan. The van's owner crawls on the ground, trying to coax his dinner out from beneath the car.

Alex stops at a stand that sells Pokémon toys and Batman bottles filled with bubble liquid. On the tables around him I see packages of bras and men's briefs, hair scrunchies, and cigarette lighters. They make me think of the markets in Italy, where rayon slips hang above purple eggplant and weed-whackers lean against wheels of pecorino cheese.

Inside the market itself we're surrounded by languages: Vietnamese and African, Tagalog and Spanish. Two women from the Middle East, their hair covered with printed scarves, examine a

couple of zucchini. A gray-haired couple in padded silk jackets shout Mandarin at each other over a wrinkled bitter melon. Behind them, a Caribbean man plays the steel drums, promoting a cassette of his music entitled *Pan Is Love*.

The produce is equally exotic. We see big bunches of Thai holy basil, deep green Chinese long beans, and bouquets of tiny redbird chili peppers.

About halfway through the market, we stop to watch the tap-dancing cat.

"I thought it was gonna be a real cat," Alex complains. But he can't take his eyes off the painted cat wearing a fringed skirt.

The cat's puppeteer, a woman in a baseball cap, accompanies the dancing feline on a guitar made from a washboard. As we watch, she puts on thick gloves and plays an old saw with a violin bow.

We buy shiitake mushrooms at \$5 a pound and sunflowers for \$3.50 a bunch, stashing them in the cooler in

the trunk with the tuna. Then we head across town to the Ferry Plaza Farmers' Market, which because of the perpetual construction on the Embarcadero, is actually a couple of blocks west of the Ferry Building at Green Street.

Instead of trucks filled with live poultry and stalls selling nylon bikini briefs, the Ferry Plaza Market offers things like massage. A woman in a straw hat is massaging the tense neck and shoulders of a man wearing running shorts. When the woman finishes the massage, she flicks her fingers over the man's head, removing his negative energy before sending him off to buy baby artichokes.

Everyone at Ferry Plaza speaks English. I know this because nearly all of them are talking into cell phones. A dad feeds the baby on his back little chunks of soft white goat cheese. A woman with a French market basket sniffs chervil. Alex keeps circling a small girl

*Continued on Next Page*



It's hard to resist the honey sticks—not to mention the tap-dancing cat—at the busy farmers' market at Ferry Plaza. Photo by Ken Newman



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Sunday, Nov. 7  
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## NOE KIDS

Continued from Previous Page

who's handing out samples of crisp sweet Asian pears.

The Ferry Plaza Farmers' Market is a foodie's paradise. We pass by tiny quail and large-breasted pheasant. And I'm tempted by white-bottomed leeks and duck sausages, shiny black mussels and apples in every color from gold to green to deep red.

Alex is more interested in the cooking demonstration. Every Saturday at 11 a.m. a different local chef prepares a dish from whatever is in season at the market. Today, it's pork sirloin topped with chutney made from apples and pears. Alex sits transfixed as the chef slices an apple so fast his hands are a blur.

After the demonstration, we buy a jar of "Castro Street Honey." "Actually it comes from a garden on Diamond Street," the woman at the stand informs us. Then we visit the lady with the bears.

"You know what this is?" the bear lady asks Alex, pointing to a tangle of wire hanging from her stand. "It's a black hole."

Below the black hole, several stuffed bears are crammed into a metal canister. "That's their spaceship," the lady says.

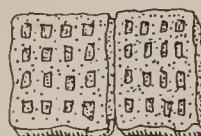
The bear lady actually sells nuts—fresh walnuts perfect for an endive and blue cheese salad. I get a half-pound, and the woman gives Alex a handwritten book titled "Space Report Black Holes."

When we get back to the car, we stuff the cooler with greening apples for baking, rabbit to roast with Dijon mustard, and sugar pumpkins perfect for soup.

"I'm going to cook all this," I tell Alex, feeling like a cross between Julia Child and Martha Stewart.

"Can I help?" he asks.

"Sure," I tell him. That's one of the nicest things about fall and motherhood: being able to pass on your obsessions. □



## Baked Apples

This is a classic baked apple recipe, and a good one for kids to make with you. Let them join in after the coring is done.

\* Preheat oven to 375 degrees.

\* Wash and remove core down to 1/2 inch from the bottom of 4 large, tart apples. Good baking apples include Greening, Rome Beauty, and Spitzenberg.

\* Combine 1/4 cup white or brown sugar with 1 teaspoon cinnamon, and fill the center of each apple with the mixture.

\* Dot the filled cores with a pat of butter.

\* Put the apples in an 8 x 8 inch pan with 3/4 cup boiling water.

\* Bake about 30 minutes until tender, but not mushy.

\* Baste the apples with the pan juices. Serve hot or chilled.

## Getting to the Market

**Alemanya Farmers' Market:** This market is located on Alemany Boulevard near the I-280/101 interchange. From Noe Valley, the fastest route is east on Cesar Chavez, then south on Bayshore to Alemany. In September, the city sparked a parking controversy by closing off the central parking area, but as of this writing (late October), the lot at the market is open. However, if you do drive, it's better to find parking on the surrounding streets and walk, since the traffic in the lot tends to jam up. Better yet, bring a wheeled cart and take the bus. The 24-Divisadero stops at Cortland and Folsom, a 15-minute walk from the market—at 100 Alemany Blvd.

**Ferry Plaza Farmers' Market:** If you drive, there's a free lot next to the market at the foot of Green Street (and the Embarcadero). If you take public transit, the J-Church stop at Embarcadero Station will put you about 10 or 15 minutes by foot from the market.

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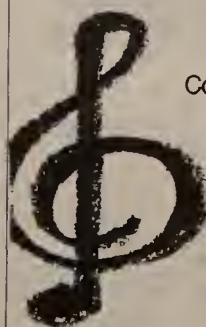


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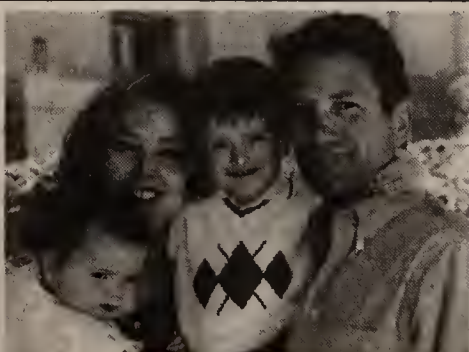
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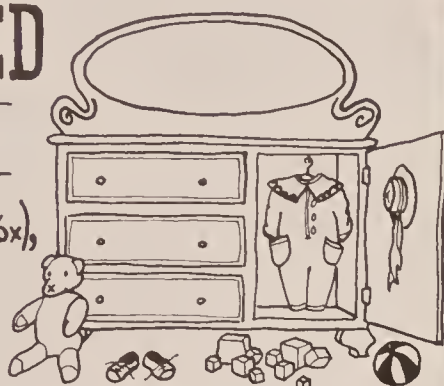


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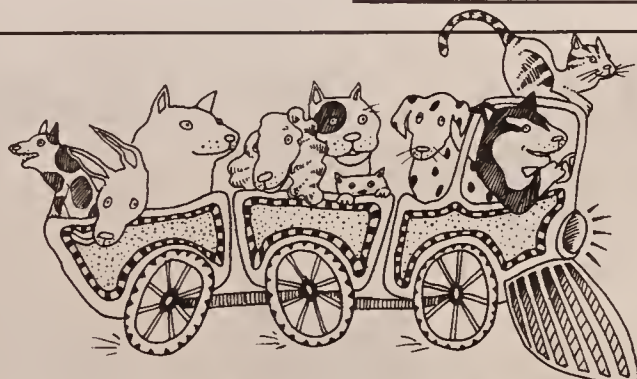
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# MORE MOUTHS TO FEED

By Maire Farrington

## Hayley Nicole Green

When one meets Hayley Nicole Green, the phrase "bundle of joy" immediately comes to mind. At 7 months old, Hayley has such a congenial personality she's a delight to hang out with. Her birth, on March 31, 1999, at 10:55 a.m., went off without a hitch. "We basically had a pretty easy labor. It was about twelve hours," says Jane Seabrook, Hayley's mom.

"Easy for me. Jane was a little more active," admits Hayley's dad, Mark Green. Mark was on hand at California Pacific Medical Center to greet his 8-pound, 5-ounce daughter. "He cut the umbilical cord," Jane reports. "It was very touching—it was the best day of my life."

"I wish we were as cheerful as Hayley always is," Mark says when asked if Hayley takes after her parents. "She's a happy little tyke. People say she looks like me, but to me she looks like the quintessential baby. She's such a cute little thing."

Hayley has blue eyes and blondish red hair. Her winning smile reveals two lower teeth, with the promise of more on the way.

"She has an easy disposition, which I always think of Mark as having," says Mom. "And Mark and I both laugh a lot, so maybe she's inherited her easy smile and her light personality from us."

Jane, 41, and Mark, 47, hit it off when they were introduced three years ago by a mutual friend. The couple have been engaged for a year, and moved into their home on Lexington Street just six months before Hayley's birth. "We used to live on Fair Oaks Street in Noe Valley," Mark says. "Now we're in Outer Outer Noe Valley, or Baja Liberty Hill."

The couple own two businesses, the Lone Palm, a cocktail lounge at 22nd and Guerrero streets, and the Palm Broker, a nursery of exotic subtropical plants, specializing in—what else?—palm trees.

Jane is currently devoting her energies to being a full-time mom. So she and Hayley get VIP treatment from Dad.

"Fortunately, my day starts later than most," Mark says. "The [tree] nursery doesn't open until 11 a.m. So I can rise out of bed around 9:00 and be here in the morning. Jane is up really early with Hayley—around 6:00—so I take the baby for a little while in the morning."

"Every day I'll put her on the floor, and I'll get down there with her and play," Jane says. "She loves all of her toys. I dump the basket over, but not too close, so she has to creep over to it. She's also turning now. I'll lay her on her stomach and she'll turn all the way around."

When Mom needs time out to go for a swim or take a break, Mark steps in. "I put Hayley in the sling and walk around, and [soon] she's totally knocked out," he says. "I can pop over to the bar and be around a bunch of people, and she'll sleep right through the whole thing."

"He always hands me back a very mellow baby," Jane says. "It's amazing: he'll have had her for three hours and he'll go, 'She was fine.' She does love to be with her daddy."

"We're practicing attachment parenting," Jane continues. "So we hold her a lot, and she sleeps with us in the family bed."

"Along with the family dog [Gilley], so it's full up there," Mark quips.

Hayley is clearly thriving with all the TLC. "She's a very chipper little being," says Mom. "The other day it occurred to me that it had been a couple of days since I had heard her cry. The most we hear



And Baby makes four. Hayley Nicole joined Mom Jane Seabrook, Dad Mark Green, and shaggy dog Gilley on March 31. Photo by Pomelo Gerord

Hayley cry is about half an hour a day."

Quite adept at entertaining herself, Hayley likes to pull off her socks and even suck her toes. And she's honing her grasping skills, reaching out for people and telephones and those all-important remote control devices. She's even been known to go for Gilley's tail (that was before she learned to mimic Mom and Dad's gentle way of stroking the dog).

She's also expanding her vocal range. Says Jane: "She's been squawking for a while, but now she's making these peculiar sounds like she's singing and these new baritone noises." Or, as Mark puts it, "Those fabulous baby sounds."

Her parents began reading to her at six weeks. "She went through a period where she would want to rip the pages," Jane says, "but now she's starting to settle down and listen to the story." At first, even the sound of rustling paper would get her excited. "She was the barbarian baby for a while," Dad says. "She would try to destroy anything made of paper."

"She had a whole routine," Jane explains. "First bang bang bang, then rip rip rip, then eat eat eat."

"The same urges that brought about the sacking of Rome," Mark deadpans.

Hayley is still being breastfed, but has begun on starter foods like mashed bananas, melon, and rice cereal, though she seems to be more interested in what her parents are eating. "She likes the colors on our plate, and she reaches for our food," Jane says. "We're told by the facilitator at Natural Resources that this could mean she's going to be a gourmet."

"Or obese," Mark kids. "She's fascinated by food."

Hayley's busy social calendar includes a weekly play group and regular meetings at Natural Resources, the moms' and babies' hangout. She is also a member of the stroller brigade in both Noe and Golden Gate Park, where she checks out "all the other babies and the trees," says Mom.

In fact, with her interest in botanicals, Hayley shows signs of being a chip off the old block. "We have a little tropical garden out back, and she loves to be taken out and play while her daddy waters back there," Jane says.

"She loves to watch me work on the plants," agrees Dad. Hayley also likes joining her parents for business trips to Santa Barbara, where she gets to visit a big palm plantation. "She's fascinated by plants and palms," Mark says. "She's a little

palm nerd, like her dad. She's a nerdlet."

When asked about the joys of parenting, Jane responds, "There are so many of them. It's just the whole experience. We bathe together and sometimes she'll nurse on my chest when she's in the bath with me. Sleeping with her is incredibly fun and sweet. Because she's such a good baby and a fun baby."

"Watching Jane and Hayley have so much joy and pleasure together—that's such a great pleasure for me," Mark says. "And, of course, seeing her grow, watching the little soul that's she's becoming.... Every day she's becoming more of a little human." □

**More Mouths to Feed** wants to show off your newest family member. If you have welcomed a new baby into the house, or adopted a teenager, please send your announcement to the *Noe Valley Voice*, More Mouths to Feed, 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114. Or e-mail us at [javoice@aol.com](mailto:javoice@aol.com). We'd also appreciate a phone number, so we can arrange for the family portrait. □



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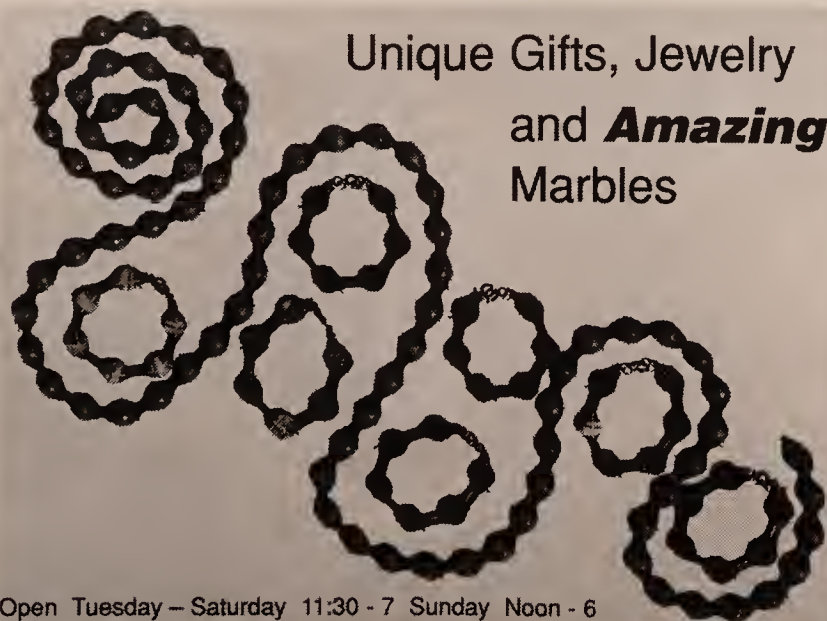
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## THINGS TO PUT IN YOUR SURVIVAL KIT

First there was the devastating quake in Turkey. Then came Taiwan. Then Mexico and L.A. Are we next? Time to repack that earthquake box. Here's what to put in it:

### Wrench

You should have a crescent or pipe wrench to turn off gas and water valves. (Shut off the valves only if your house has sustained severe damage or you smell gas.)

### Flashlight

Keep flashlights—and batteries—in several locations in case of a power failure.

### Water, Disinfectant

Store three days' worth of drinkable water for you and your family (1 gallon per person per day), plus a disinfectant like chlorine bleach to help purify it.

### First-Aid Kit

Put your first-aid kit in a central place. Include a book of medical instructions.

### Radio and Batteries

You'll need a portable radio so you can get emergency broadcasts and disaster news. A cell phone would also come in handy.

### Dry or Canned Food

Store a week's supply of food for each person—preferably food that doesn't require refrigeration or cooking. Don't forget a can opener.

### Blankets, Clothing, Shoes

Put blankets, clothing, and a pair of shoes (and glasses) in your earthquake supplies box. Toss in a pen and paper and that novel you've been meaning to read.

### Money

It's a good idea to stash a few \$20 bills and some quarters in a safe place. Note: the pay phones should work even if the regular phone lines are jammed.

### Fire Extinguisher

Your household or business should have a fire extinguisher—the kind that works for all types of fires. Make sure it's accessible.

### Barbecue Grill or Stove

It's smart to have a grill—and some charcoal and matches—in case your gas and electricity are shut off. (If you use it, remember to cook *outdoors only*.)

More earthquake tips can be found on pages B6 and B7 of the San Francisco phone book.

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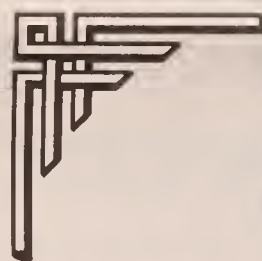
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# BOOKS in our BRANCH

This month's new books list, provided by librarians Roberta Greifer and Carol Small, features a guide for parents on how to raise boys, a collection of short stories by Kurt Vonnegut, and a cookbook that helps ward off osteoporosis. To check out a book's availability, call 695-5095, or drop by the Noe Valley-Sally Brunn Library at 451 Jersey St. Besides books, the branch offers magazines, CDs, access to the Internet, and an index to the *Noe Valley Voice*. Hours are Tuesdays, 10 to 9; Wednesdays, 1 to 9; Thursdays, 10 to 6; Fridays, 1 to 6; and Saturdays, noon to 6.

## Adult Fiction

◆ *Bagombo Snuff Box* presents choice early short stories by Kurt Vonnegut published previously only in the leading magazines of the '50s and '60s.

◆ *Family Honor*, by Robert B. Parker, features a new female private investigator named Sunny Randall, who fights to protect a vulnerable teenage girl from underworld and Mob influences.

◆ Based on a true story, *The Innocents Within*, by Robert Daley, describes the underground movements to save the Jews in a town called Le Lignon, in Nazi-occupied France.

◆ In *A Star Called Henry*, Irish author Roddy Doyle portrays, in historical context, the life of a young Dubliner who becomes an IRA terrorist.

◆ Edgar Award-winning author Stuart Kaminsky begins a brand new mystery series with his novel *Vengeance*, portraying private eye Lew Fonesca in Sarasota, Florida.

## Adult Nonfiction

◆ *Food and Our Bones*, by Annamarie Colbin, offers more than 60 recipes for mineral-rich meals that prevent osteoporosis naturally.

◆ Best-selling author, therapist, and educator Michael Gurain provides a comprehensive parenting plan for raising ethical sons in his book *The Good Son*.

◆ In *It's a Jungle Out There, Jane*, radio and television psychologist Dr. Joy Browne explains why men (and women) behave the way they do, and offers self-help advice on how we can all get along.

◆ In *The Old Neighborhood*, former NPR talk show host Ray Suarez explores the changing realities of urban and suburban life.

## Children's Fiction

◆ In *Three Cheers for Catherine the Great*, by Carl Best (illustrated by Giselle Potter), Sara sees that her "no present" is a wonderful way to express her love for her Russian grandmother. *Ages 5 to 8.*

◆ Mary Lou, Tommy, Leo, and Lynn find out that their neighbor is not the person they expect him to be in *The Worst Kid Who Ever Lived on Eighth Avenue*, by Laurie Lawlor. *Ages 6 to 8.*

◆ Readers will see many familiar and a few unfamiliar elements in *Golden Sandal: A Middle Eastern Cinderella Story*, retold by Rebecca Hickox. *Ages 6 to 8.*

◆ A clever group of students figure out why their report cards say things like "Days Absent: 5,000" and "Days Tardy: 8,000" in *Angela's Top-Secret Computer Club*, by Holly Keller. *Ages 6 to 9.*

◆ When Tom's grandfather unexpectedly escapes to the "Outside," Tom follows him and discovers a world very different from the one he knows in *Off the Road*, by Nina Bawden. *Ages 10 and up.*

## Children's Nonfiction

◆ The students in Ms. Frizzle's class have gone on another unusual field trip! Come along for the ride in *Magic School Bus Explores the Senses*, by Joanna Cole, illustrated by Bruce Degen. *Ages 5 and up.*

◆ "How can I make this giant look really big?" and "Should I draw with a pencil? Pen? Brush?" are some of the many questions considered in *What Do Illustrators Do?* by Eileen Christelow. *Ages 8 and up.*

◆ Steve Jenkins discusses the challenges, attraction, excitement, and dangers of mountain climbing in *The Top of the World: Climbing Mount Everest*. *Ages 8 to 11.*

Annotations by Carol Small

Annotations by Roberta Greifer

## Films for Kids

◆ The library shows *films* for children ages 3 to 5 on Tuesday, Nov. 16, at 10 and 11 a.m.

## Preschool Story Time

◆ Kids 3 to 5 are invited to the library's *preschool story time*, starting at 10 a.m. on Tuesdays, Nov. 2, 9, and 30.

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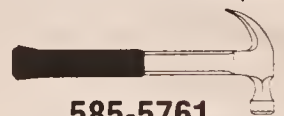


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# FLORENCE'S FAMILY ALBUM

Illustrated Reminiscences  
by Florence Holub

## When Leo and I First Clicked

Often when I am introduced to someone new, they ask if I am related to the photographer Leo Holub. (As many of my *Voice* readers know, Leo is famous for his photos of Stanford University, modern American artists, and the cityscapes of San Francisco.) After I tell them that he is my husband, they rarely discuss photography but instead ask me how Leo and I happened to meet. I just say we met in art school.

Women, being more sentimental, usually go on to ask whether it was love at first sight. No, it wasn't, I reply, because at the time I wasn't thinking about love. When I met Leo—at the ripe old age of 19—I was sure I'd never marry. Instead, I planned to "be an old maid" and devote my life to art.

This was because most of the boys I knew in my teens had shown a complete lack of interest in my favorite subject (art). I recall one young man in the late 1930s who accompanied me to an exhibition of the acclaimed paintings of Vincent van Gogh. He remarked that he thought van Gogh's thick oil paint looked like wads of chewing gum found on the underside of a cafeteria table. Needless to say, that friendship had a short life span.

In the years after high school, there



Her future husband took this snapshot of Florence Mickelson, while she was painting in "P.Q." Forster's graphic art class at the California School of Fine Arts in 1939. Photo by Leo Holub

didn't seem to be anyone with whom I could share the rich bounty of the Bay Area art world.

However, when I enrolled at the California School of Fine Arts on Chestnut Street (now the San Francisco Art Institute), I discovered that there were many dedicated and talented students to associate with. In 1939, the school was an exciting environment for learning, with each class taught by a prominent artist. Covering one entire wall of the school's exhibition hall was a monumental fresco depicting the building of our city, painted by the great Mexican artist Diego Rivera.

All students received a solid training in the fine arts—classes in art history, anatomy, painting, sculpture, lithography, and printmaking. Students who

wished to become art teachers in the public schools then went on for further training at U.C. Berkeley.

Those of us who chose not to take that path, who wanted to create something by our own hands but still earn a living, pursued more specialized commercial classes such as magazine or book design. (I had an interest in fashion illustration, and found that I was good at drawing children.)

Some of these courses were conducted by an exceptionally fine practitioner of the graphic arts, Paul Q. Forster. He quickly became a favorite with the students, for inspiring us with his talent—his illustrations and lettering were superb—for sharing his broad knowledge of the field, and for generously giving of his time. We all consid-

ered him a friend, so we took the liberty of affectionately calling him by his initials, "P.Q."

One day when we came to class, we learned that P.Q. had been hospitalized, to have surgery. We were so concerned that we decided to visit him on the following Saturday, agreeing to meet one another downtown at 1 p.m.

When I arrived at the designated corner, only one other person was there. The two of us waited until it was clear that the others would not show. Then we boarded the Geary streetcar and rode to the old French Hospital (now Kaiser) on the corner of Sixth Avenue.

We strode into the building and into our teacher's sickroom, announcing that we'd come to cheer him up. We instantly saw that he was recovered and delighted with our arrival. He even offered us a drink from his bottle of schnapps! We chatted happily all afternoon—until the nurses shooed us out.

Since it was getting dark outside, the other student offered to walk me home. During the way, I found out more about him: He was two years older. He had a job, working at night for a decorator who was designing frescoes for the San Francisco World's Fair. And he had already spent two years at the Art Institute in Chicago. So he knew a considerable amount about art.

The walk proved to be such an enjoyable journey that we decided to make it a regular Saturday-night habit. Before long, Leo and I were a familiar two-some around town. We often went out with our pencils and pads and sketched the city's landscapes—we even painted

*Continued on Next Page*



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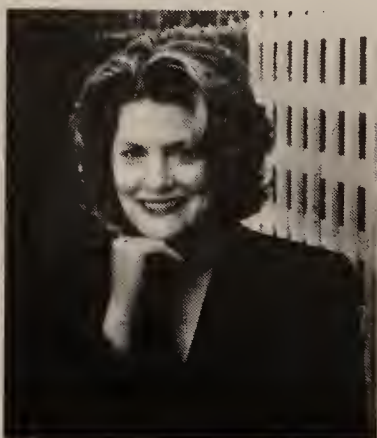
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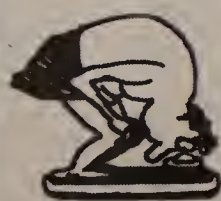
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Florence and Leo Holub have dedicated a chair in the lecture hall at the S.F. Art Institute to the favorite teacher who brought them together 60 years ago. Photo by Jeff Gunderson

## FLORENCE'S FAMILY ALBUM

*Continued from Previous Page*

horses grazing on Diamond Heights. As one of our colleagues put it, "In any museum or gallery, these two art lovers can be seen peering at paintings and holding hands!"

Since neither of us was very demonstrative, holding hands was about it. But Leo sometimes called me "Hon." I took this to be a term of endearment until I learned that he spelled it with a *u*, as in Attila the Hun. I guess as a proud descendant of the pillaging Vikings, I couldn't very well object.

Although I enjoyed his sense of humor and found him to be excellent company, as the months went by I began to feel uneasy, remembering my determination to remain single. So I told him that it might be wise for us to sever the relationship before it became too serious.

After thinking it over for a few days, Leo came back and expressed his feelings on the subject. It seemed to him that we were meant for each other. "Most people spend their life searching for the person with whom to spend their life, and sometimes it never happens," he pointed out.

Leo's moving statement, sad but true, completely destroyed my earlier aim of spinsterhood. But from then on, I looked at the bright side: Together we would pursue a life of art!

With that mutual understanding, we tied the knot on July 3, 1941. Our teacher P.Q. danced at our wedding, and throughout our lives he remained our

valued mentor and treasured friend. After he too got married—to an elegant doctor from Holland, Else Cabos—the four of us often went out to dinner and entertained at each another's houses. Else enhanced our relationship greatly and, as our family pediatrician, gently cared for our three sons as each was brought into the world.

The years passed and we all grew older, and, sadly, P.Q. had a fatal stroke about five years ago. His devastated bride went back to Holland to live, but we continued to stay in touch.

This September, Leo and I returned to the Art Institute to celebrate the renovation of the lecture hall, a project that had been financed by the "Take a Seat" campaign. In return for making a gift, donors could name a chair for their own personal hero. Leo and I had chosen to name a seat in honor of the man we regarded so highly and to whom we owed so much, P.Q.

When we arrived at the hall, we located and sat in the chair that bore the name Paul Quentin Forster engraved on a bronze plate. Then we noticed that the seat next to it bore the name of one of his most promising students, Leo Holub!

Unbeknownst to us, Paul's widow, Else Forster, had named a chair for my man Leo. How good to see them so close together again. (I told Else that I hoped she didn't mind I'd sat in "Paul's lap"!)

And how nice to reflect upon our student days. Back in the '30s, photography was not yet considered an art, and there were no courses in it. But one young man could be observed carrying around a big Graflex D camera, clicking away at the architecture, at his favorite teachers (like P.Q.), and of course at all the pretty young girls.

Sixty years later, Leo is still clicking. In fact, we're still clicking too! □

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Mailing Address: Call Greg Clark for info.  
Meetings: First Tuesday of month, in the auditorium at Upper Noe Rec Center, Day & Sanchez, 7 p.m.

**Castro Area Planning + Action**  
Contact: Linton Stables, 541-0344, ext. 230; [capa@home4us.org](mailto:capa@home4us.org)  
Meetings: Second Thursday of month, Eureka Valley Recreation Center, 100 Collingwood St., 7:30 p.m.

**Cesar Chavez Neighborhood Association**  
Contact: Ed White, 774-3237  
Mailing Address: First Church of God, 3728 Cesar Chavez St., San Francisco, CA 94110  
Meetings: Last Thursday of month, First Church of God, 7:30 p.m.

**Diamond Heights Community Association**  
Contact: Robert Dockendorff, 826-3867  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 31529, San Francisco, CA 94131  
Meetings: First Thursday of month, 7:30 p.m. Call for location.

**Dolores Heights Improvement Club**  
Contact: Amy Powell, 647-4228  
Mailing Address: 3732 21st St., San Francisco, CA 94114  
Meetings: Bimonthly; membership meetings, semi-annually. Call for details.

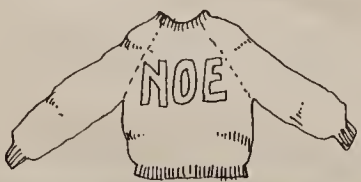
**Duncan Newburg Association (DNA)**  
Contact: Evelyn Martin, 826-6734; Keith Eickman, 282-8988; Dennis Downing, 647-0937; or Deanna Mooney, 821-4045  
Mailing Address: 560 Duncan St., San Francisco, CA 94131  
Meetings: Held periodically. Call for details.

**East & West of Castro Street Improvement Club**  
Contact: Paul Kantus, 647-3753  
Mailing Address: 492 Douglass St., San Francisco, CA 94114  
Meetings: First Wednesday of month, Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St., 7:30 p.m. Call for summer holiday schedule.

**Eureka Valley Promotion Association**  
Contact: Lion Barnett, 255-3624  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 14137, San Francisco, CA 94114  
Meetings: Third Thursday (except July, August, and December), Eureka Valley Recreation Center, 100 Collingwood St., 7 p.m.

**Fair Oaks Neighbors**  
Contact: Paul Nixon, 647-5183  
Mailing Address: 163 Fair Oaks St., San Francisco, CA 94110  
Meetings: Call for details.

**Fairmount Neighborhood Association**  
Contact: Susan Nutter, 285-8484  
Mailing Address: 78 Harper St., San Francisco, CA 94131  
Meetings: Held periodically at Upper Noe Recreation Center, Day & Sanchez, 7 p.m.



**Friends of Glen Canyon Park**  
Contact: Richard Craib, 648-0862  
Mailing Address: 140 Turquoise Way, San Francisco, CA 94131  
Meetings: Third Wednesday of the month, Glen Park Recreation Center, 7:30 p.m.

**Friends of Noe Valley**  
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**Liberty Hill Neighborhood Association**  
Contact: Katherine Pietrycha, president: [Katherine.Pietrycha@wcom.com](mailto:Katherine.Pietrycha@wcom.com)  
Mailing Address: 3288 21st St., Box 44, San Francisco, CA 94110  
Meetings: Executive board meets first Tuesday of month; general meetings quarterly. Call for details.

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Voicemail: 675-0110; [nichapin@aol.com](mailto:nichapin@aol.com)  
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Meetings: Irregular. Call for information.

**Noe Valley Democratic Club**  
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**Noe Valley Neighborhood Parks Improvement Association**  
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**Upper Noe Neighbors**  
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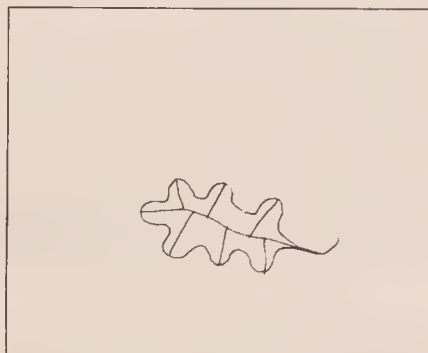
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**Looking for a Room in Noe Valley.** Female, 31 years old. I can only afford between \$300 and \$400 a month. I like neat and clean places. Call me at 650-991-7013. Moving December 1999 or January 2000. Straight, ns/nd, just social drinking, no kids.

**Urban Harmony Community** a capella chorus for adults meets Monday nights, 7 p.m. at YWCA Apartments, 940 Powell St. (between Montgomery and Clay). Free. No experience necessary. 510-528-6029. [uhm@casa.org](mailto:uhm@casa.org).

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**Large Iguana/Reptile Cage** and equipment. Free. 415-333-3044.

**Dominican Guild Christmas Boutique.** To benefit the Dominican Sisters. Saturday, Nov. 6, 1999. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. ICA Auditorium, 24th and Guerrero streets.

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**December Sublet.** One bedroom, Haight Ashbury. Panhandle view. Available Dec. 1 through Jan. 7. Rent \$875 for five weeks, plus \$500 security deposit. Plenty of charm but no parking. 415-626-1258.

**Need Housework?** 14 years cleaning in Noe Valley. Call Stephanie, 282-3176.

**Beaded Class.** Dec. 4. Make your own holiday gifts! Choker, necklace, and slinky bracelets. Two classes, 10 a.m. to noon or 2 to 4 p.m. Class includes one project for \$35 prepaid; additional projects \$5 each. Learn a lifelong hobby! Limited space. For a reservation call Barbara, 621-5350.

**Garage Wanted in Noe Valley.** Preferably close to 27th and Church; for parking one car. Please call Sam at 510-814-5215.



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**Noe Valley Psychologist** describes his work in the fall issue of *Common Ground*, on page 118. Elliott Izenberg, Ph.D. 695-0499.

**All Phases of Construction.** Over 20 years of experience. MAC California Lic. #752127. Call Marcus, 305-5708.

**Meditation Workshops.** These are practical workshops that will enable you to begin earnest meditation on your own. A clear understanding of what meditation is, how it works, and how to make it an enjoyable daily experience will be presented. Tuesday, Nov. 9, 6 to 7:30 p.m. \$8. Integral Yoga Institute, 770 Dolores St. 415-821-1117.

**Phil's Window Cleaning Service.** Reliable/courteous. Free estimates for residential/commercial. 668-8310.

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**Midlife, A Balancing Act!** New support group for women 40s to 60s. Find a safe haven of companionship, healing, inspiration. Geary Boulevard near Park Presidio. Jennifer Feeley, M.F.T. (MFC35307). 415-244-7850.

**Clean & Natural:** Housecleaning service. Licensed, bonded. Call Simone, 415-303-9865 or 415-577-8188; [cleannaturalsg@aol.com](mailto:cleannaturalsg@aol.com).

**Group Therapy for Women** with eating disorders. Food does not have to be the most important thing in your life. Overeating, throwing up, and not eating are not as impossible to overcome as they may seem. We now have openings in our women's group. You may find it helpful to relate to others who are working to gain control of their lives and their eating. The group meets Thursdays from 6:30 to 8 p.m. The fee is \$30 per week. For further information, call Dr. Pat Sax, 415-661-7158.

**Sunny, Large Office to Share** for therapist or other. Available Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday or Sunday, or Monday, Wednesday (days only). Near 24th and Castro. Available Nov. 1. Call Carla, 415-255-6394.

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**Fog City Dog** now accepting clients for canine exercise group. Noe Valley resident. Reasonable rates, senior discounts. Bonded. Lou, 824-9374.

**Office to Rent.** For a therapist, Tuesday and Thursday days, Wednesday day and evening. On 24th St. near Dolores. Call 647-8719.

**Pranayama and Meditation.** This six-week class presents the basics of meditation and breathing practices. Discover for yourself how these practices can improve the quality of your life, raise your standard of health, and bring new clarity and dynamism to your mind. Please register five days in advance. Six Tuesdays, beginning Nov. 9, 6 to 7:30 p.m. \$48. Integral Yoga Institute, 770 Dolores St. 415-821-1117.

**Parents Coming Feb., March, and April.** Looking for a two-bedroom house with parking to sublet. Mother doing research, Father doing golf. Will pet-sit and watch your garden. Libby, 415-665-2864.

**Stereo Repair:** Save time, money! Offering in-home repairs at reasonable rates. Formerly with Pacific Stereo, now serving the San Francisco community for 12 years. Evening and weekend appointments available. Thorough, conscientious, guarantee, references. Gene's Sound Service, 554-3688.

**Artists / Performers / Writers** at all levels: An ongoing support group, workshops, and individual consultations designed to enhance your creative life are available in Noe Valley. Call Robert Ressler, Ph.D., 415-289-2212.

**Your Mother Visiting?** House for rent, one to three weeks, \$1,200 per week. December and January. Location: Laidley and Noe. Two bedrooms, panoramic views. Huge garden with jacuzzi. Contact Barry, 415-647-8216 or [barryz@ncal.verio.com](mailto:barryz@ncal.verio.com).

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**Raja Yoga.** Raja Yoga teaches us time-tested and systemic methods of freeing ourselves from stress and anxiety, how to understand one's own mind and how to use it more effectively to live peacefully and joyously. Seven Mondays, beginning Nov. 8, 6 to 7:30 p.m. \$56. Integral Yoga Institute, 770 Dolores St. 415-821-1117.

**Housecleaning and Hauling.** Move-in or -out. Carpet cleaning. Garage and yard cleanup. Excellent references. 510-236-2901, Denise or Wesley.

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**Meeting Someone** has never been this much fun! The Meeting Game. A new way to meet that special someone! Large salons monthly. 24-hour recorded info: 415-789-7887; [www.MeetingGame.com](http://www.MeetingGame.com).

**Short Form of Yang Style T'ai Chi** clarified by Sifu Sam Tam. Thursdays, 6 to 7:30 p.m. Noe Valley Ministry, second floor. For additional information call 821-3525.

**Housecleaning.** Good references, excellent experience. Reasonable prices. Eliza, 650-991-3457.

**Counseling: Start Your Healing Journey.** Gentle, practical, individual and couples therapy by experienced M.F.C.C. intern. Sliding scale. Free 15-minute phone consultation. Lesbian/gay/bi/straight welcome. Noe Valley. Julie DePinna Arner, M.A., registered M.F.C.C. intern supervised and employed by Cate Poty, M.F.C.C. Call 415-882-1161.

**Professional, Ethical, Spiritual/Emotional** counseling. Clairvoyance, astrology. Experienced, affordable. By phone or in person. Free 15 minutes. Anna, 415-826-7190.

**Quaint "Victorian Garden"** B&B near 26th and Sanchez. Private and ground level, living room, fireplace, bathroom, bedroom with queen-size bed, office nook, flower-filled patio/garden, laundry facilities, phone, sound system, cable TV, plentiful breakfast items. Apartment is lovely and quiet. Two-night minimum. Call 206-0202.

**Mac or iMac Computer? Need Help?** I can...help you clean up your computer, get your computer talking to your printer and modem, set up e-mail and the web, etc. I am the tech coordinator at an elementary school. Evenings and weekends in your home. 641-7062.

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**Flute Lessons.** Noe Valley-based flutist with B.A. and M.M. in flute performance and pedagogy, accepting students of all ages and levels. 15 years experience. Carla, 415-648-3651.

**Do You Need Housecleaning?** We'll do it. References. \$13 per hour. Call Marco and Sara, 415-643-1262.

**Morgenstern & Son Hauling.** Dump runs. Discount for salvageables. Free estimates. Call 902-8026 anytime. Small job? Pager Nick, 560-3637.

**Professional Housekeeper.** I don't cut corners, I clean them. Consistent and systematic, with over 18 years excellent references. 510-547-2469 toll-free; call to hear more information.

**Home Heating Specialist.** Warm air furnaces, ductwork, chimneys installed, replaced. Problem systems improved, quieted. Fifteen years serving Noe Valley. Licensed. Call Larry Fitzsimmons, 826-0308.

**Gardening.** Consultations, design, and renovations. Expert planting, pruning, and maintenance using organic methods. 626-1258.

**A Positive View.** Counseling, psychotherapy, care management to help people manage eyesight loss. Home visits. Medicare accepted, negotiable fee. (Medicare Provider ZZZ366122, L.C.S.W. 14086.) Call 415-334-1984.

**Six Week Hatha Yoga Class.** This class will introduce you to basic yoga postures, breathing practices, and deep relaxation techniques. It will allow for personal attention and in-depth instruction. Tuesdays beginning Nov. 9, 7:30 to 9 p.m. \$48. Integral Yoga Institute, 770 Dolores St. 415-821-1117.

**Furniture Wanted.** I need old and antique dressers, tables, desks, etc. Any condition. Paying cash. Karen, 647-6157.

**Word Processing** (expertise: legal/medical). Audio/ videotape transcription, editing, resumes, and letter composition, including complaint letters. 24-hour phone-in dictation system available. Dena Reiner, 415-821-4661.

**Bed and Breakfast, Noe Valley.** 826-1158.

**Your Nest Egg May Have a Crack.** Long-term nursing care for yourself or aging relatives could wipe out a lifetime of savings and create tremendous stress on family members. Medicare does not cover long-term care, and Medicaid will require that you "spend down" your assets. Financial planners and accountants recommend Long Term Care Insurance as the most viable solution. For third-party articles or a free, no pressure consultation, call Bill Hannant at 415-647-7012.

**Housecleaning.** Experienced. Excellent references. Own car. \$15/hour. 650-992-0538, Gil.

**Web Site Design.** Original site design, including e-commerce; grow your site plans, makeovers. Credit cards accepted. Free one-hour phone consultation. HandShake, Ltd. 415-643-2800 or [www.hand-shake.com](http://www.hand-shake.com) or [mail@hand-shake.com](mailto:mail@hand-shake.com) Yvonne Walker.

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**Relocating?** We take the frazzle out of moving. From packing to setup, we handle all the details of your move. Call for a free consultation. ShipShape, 550-0658.

**Are You Experiencing Transitions** in your life? I work with couples who are wanting to achieve more fulfillment in their relationships or are contemplating marriage. Adolescents who are facing the myriad choices and questions of this transitional time. Individuals who are seeking assistance through life's transitions and want to feel more grounded in their choices. Chris Kughn, M.F.T. Intern #34106, supervised by Julie Albert, M.F.T. #28884. Noe Valley office. Call 415-241-8869.

**Licensed Painter.** Small and large jobs. Interior and exterior. Also plaster and drywall repairs. License 497-214. Free estimates. Call Ed at 995-4666.

**Vacation Room Rental,** Upper Noe Valley. Clean, safe, comfortable. Ideal for visiting family. Sue, 415-821-4890.

**Piano Lessons** for kids. Noe Valley-based musician with B.A. and M.M. in Music Performance, Music Education, and a certified Early Childhood Music Specialist, accepting beginning students. A traditional piano technique, combined with singing (Kodaly based), reading music, and other activities that teach children music through play, as well as traditional techniques. Great references! 15 years experience. Carla, 415-648-3651.

**Property Owners!** Thinking about remodeling or adding to your building or constructing a new building? Get the creative input your project needs from an experienced architect. Call Mike Hager at 285-7409. In Noe Valley since 1981; 28 years experience.

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**Healing Energy Workshop.** Take control of your own healing energy and learn to trust your intuitive wisdom. This class teaches the ancient yogic anatomy and various healing meditation techniques which help us gain good health and stay well. Tuesday, Nov. 30, 6 to 7:30 p.m. \$8. Integral Yoga Institute, 770 Dolores St. 415-821-1117.

**Psychotherapy** for people with bipolar disorder. Recover and maintain equilibrium; cope with feelings about diagnosis and medication; build self-esteem; improve relationships; find inner strength. Call Jody Reiss, L.C.S.W., 415-401-9482.

**Pic-a-Rose Guest House.** Family visiting? Detached cottage / studio with bathroom. Available Thanksgiving weekend, Thursday through Monday. 415-282-6229. [picarose@worldnet.att.net](mailto:picarose@worldnet.att.net).

**Trees, Shrubs, Hedges.** Professional arborist, neighborhood resident. Twenty-plus years experience. Free estimates, reasonable rates. Call with any garden questions. Bill Squire, 826-6160.

**Massage Workshop.** Intro to Swedish with Duncan Reid, C.M.T. Seven years experience. On a Saturday in November. \$75. Call for info: 821-3969.

**Word Templates and Macros** (Word 97 or later). Want to automate production of your letters and forms? Pull database information into Word documents? Perform complex, repetitive formatting tasks with the click of a button? Experienced VBA programmer makes Word work harder for you. Friendly and reliable. Reasonable rates. Call Bob McCoy at 415-695-0723.

**Hauling, Schlepper Bros.** Fast, fair, and fantastic. Yogic, caring, and brave. Y2K, sustainability activist. 824-4214.

**Substance Abuse Counseling.** Confidential. Compassionate, certified. Bernal Heights location. Eric Denner, M.B.A., C.A.D.C. 415-824-4541.

**Dog Walkers Wanted!** Must have car. Dog Walking Service of San Francisco: 415-731-0120.

**Bed and Breakfast in Noe Valley.** Parents or friends coming, and no room for them? Have them stay in a lovely two-room apartment with private entrance and bathroom, fireplace, kitchen, antique furnishings. Convenient to 24th Street and J-Church line. Oliver House, 415-695-0700.

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**10 FOR 10 DISCOUNT:** The *Noe Valley Voice* publishes a news edition 10 months a year. (We're on vacation in January and August.) If you place the *same* class ad in 10 issues, you are entitled to a 10 percent discount. To figure your cost, deduct 10 percent from the total amount due for 10 issues.

The next *Noe Valley Voice* will be the December 1999/January 2000 double issue, distributed in Noe Valley Dec. 2, 1999. **THE DEADLINE FOR CLASS ADS IS NOV. 15.**

Sorry, the *Voice* is unable to accept Class Ads by phone or e-mail at this time. But there's one consolation: The ads are displayed on our web site at no extra charge: [www.noevalleyvoice.com](http://www.noevalleyvoice.com).

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## and now for the RUMORS behind the news

### Bring Back Summer

By Mazook

LET'S HEAR IT for those balmy Indian summer weekends in Downtown Noe Valley. They sure put people in a good mood.

On Saturday morning Oct. 9, lines of smiling parents and children waited patiently in front of Walgreen's for a lift on the Merchants Association's hayride, clip-clopping down 24th Street from Castro to Church.

As the horse and driver (they were from Sebastopol) pulled the hay wagon down 24th, the Saturday traffic slowed to a sane and safe 5 to 7 miles an hour. Meanwhile, happy crowds browsed the Merchants' sidewalk sales.

The temperature was in the 80s—almost sweltering—but hey, it was a great ride.



THEN THERE WAS the tropical Saturday night of Oct. 16, when people again flocked to our main street. The temperature at 8:00 in the evening was at least 75. We—Renée and I and our two kids, Shayna and Joshua—planned to go have a "quick" hamburger on the famously cool patio at Barney's.

On our way up 24th Street, we passed by Pasta Pomodoro and noticed that the Sidewalk Astronomers were out. They'd set up their telescope on the corner and trained their lens on the moon. It was hard to tell which was longer: the line for the moon or the line for Pasta Pomodoro.

Well, of course, we had to stop to have a look. And another. And another. By the time we finished our lunacy and took off in search of burgers, Jupiter and Saturn were rising above 24th Street. Everyone agreed we'd have to return.

But up at Barney's—forget sitting outdoors—the patio was jammed and jammin'. So we ate inside. The burgers and salads were great and came at a very fair price, but the news is—here's your Rumors item—the cafe has removed the



The October night was warm and the duty was pleasant as Joshua and Shayna Rubin were invited to sit in the front seat of a patrol car operated by Mission Station officers Jose Pubill (pictured) and Raymond Lee.

Photo by Roger Rubin

Heinz ketchup bottles from the tables. They now dole out the ketchup in little plastic cups. Were we using too much Heinz? Or just making a mess?

After din-din, we joined the parade of pedestrians strolling down 24th Street. Everyone was stopping at the store window of Cottage Industry, which was so cluttered it looked like a page from a *Where's Waldo?* book.

I was not surprised when we passed by La Salsa and noticed that the tortilla chain had folded and the place was now "For Rent." Did anybody ever eat there?

My attempts to contact the corporate headquarters in Santa Barbara were foiled by an automated answering system that failed to produce anyone who could tell me why their Noe Valley "unit" had shut down.

Anyway, by the time we got back to the corner of 24th and Noe, the Pasta Pomodoro line had gotten shorter, but the line at the telescope was longer than ever. And there were two dogs in it—one a

svelt Russian borzoi. Still, we waited.

My 7-year-old Shayna's response when she looked through the lens was: "Oh, my goodness!" There was a very big Jupiter with its four moons in view, the last one just rising above the Jovian horizon. (The four moons are Europa, Ganymede, Callisto, and Io.)

The crowd then began clamoring for Saturn. After some minor adjustments, my 6-year-old Joshua was told to take a peek. He gasped: There was the planet with "all its rings," and the large moon Titan, lumbering along at its side.

By 10 o'clock the crowd on the corner had swelled to include more dogs and kids, and we were joined by four police officers from Mission Station. The men and women in blue had just finished their 10-7 (police code for out of service) at Tung Sing Restaurant and were returning to the squad car to 10-4.

By the time I turned my eyes away from Saturn, my kids had already been invited into the front seat of the Ford squad car to await further orders from headquarters. One knob led to another, and the next thing I knew all those blue and red lights were flashing.

The kids thought the whole thing was "totally cool." Knowing the value of good police-community relations, Officer Raymond Lee pulled out his Polaroid and snapped a mugshot of the kids in the squad car. (See photo this page.)

By the time we bailed out of the squad car and out of Downtown Noe Valley, it was almost 11 and we were exhausted from having too much fun.



THAT BLUE STORE on the corner of Duncan and Sanchez may soon become history. That's because the owners of the property are proposing to demolish both it and the adjoining house (and the four garages next to the house) and build two three-bedroom residences.

It appears that the builder and the neighbors are working together—wow, what a concept—and plans are being revised by local architect Ross Levy, who has applied for permits.

Rumors regulars will recall that several years ago two fellows had remodeled the interior and tried to open the space as a full-service restaurant, That Blue Place. When notices were posted, the neighbors banded together in opposition and won.

Oh, that reminds me: All of you who

Continued on Next Page

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# RUMORS

Continued from Previous Page

live around that corner and park your cars up on the Duncan Street Hill should think twice about it.

For decades, the block of Duncan above Sanchez has been a parking haven. There is no street cleaning there, and thus no real necessity to move your car (yeah, right). A lot of Noe Valleons park on the hill when they're going out of town for over a week, thereby avoiding making arrangements for someone to move their car or enduring a streetsweeping ticket.

Well, the rumor is that one or more of the residents on the hill has been complaining to the authorities. Parking and Traffic has started posting 72-hour abandoned-car notices on all the offending vehicles and towing the mechanical critters away. Bye-bye.

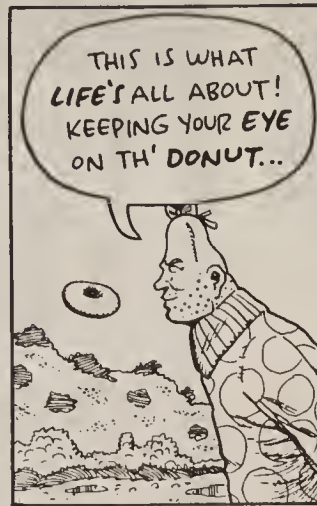
My last rumor on the Sanchez Street corridor is, dare I say it, there are grumbings that the pigeons have found new sources of food and continue to plague the non-pigeon lovers as well as the out-and-out pigeon haters who live there.

Rumors readers might remember the 17-year battle that residents had with the "Pigeon Lady" of Sanchez and 26th streets. She used to scatter seed for her beloved

ZIPPER



"THE END OF INNOCENCE"



BILL GRIFFITH



birds on almost a daily basis. Her flock would wait perched on the telephone wires and then swoop down after her as she walked down the street. (She hid the birdseed in her trenchcoat pockets.) The Pigeon Lady developed such an enormous following that the Health Department habitually cited her and ultimately had to go to court to get an injunction against her birdfeeding activities.

Then a few years ago, the city and her neighbors "helped" her sell her house for big bucks, so she could afford a plane ticket back to her native Estonia. Let's hope she's living in the lap of luxury, and has a garden twittering with birds.

UPDATING THE UPDATES: The closure of Wong's Cleaners out on Church

and Duncan has been followed by the opening of a new cleaners. It is now called Crown Cleaners, and Susan Yu reopened the doors with laundry and folding, dry-cleaning services, and several sewing machines for doing alterations.

Up Church Street next door to the Sun Valley Dairy, you will notice that Cash and Carry, which sold beauty supplies at that location for 22 years, has lost its lease and has moved to 2585A San Bruno Ave. (cross street is Silver).

My sources say there's a lot of interest in the space. People are talking flower shop, gift and jewelry shop, a secondhand clothing store, and an exercise studio.

THE TALK of Uptown Noe Valley is the revival of Star Bakery, which has

stood at 29th and Church since 1889. The bakers say the regulars have returned and the big round table in the corner is filled with oldtimers chatting up a storm.

Star's star, Bill Phillips, has hired a pastry chef who is making the popular almond croissants and the all-new fresh-fruit danish pastries.

Bill has also commissioned local artist Doug Martin to paint a mural on the 29th Street side of the building. Many of Doug's flowers, vines, cactus butterflies, and birds are already up on the wall.

"I don't have a name for it yet," says Doug, "but I am enjoying the project and all the neighborhood people I am meeting. I have talked to about 500 people in the last couple of months while I've been working on the mural."

Doug adds, "About 10 neighborhood kids have come by and made some artistic contributions after I tell them that this is 'no-fault' art and not to worry."

When I talked to Doug, he had just finished painting a thousand-petal lotus flower "for meditative purposes."

Before I leave 29th and Church, I got to tell you that the new and also popular Cafe J is no longer serving dinner. New hours are 6:30 to 4 weekdays, 7:30 to 4 on Saturdays, and 7:30 to 3 on Sundays.

☎ ☎ ☎

HERB'S FINE FOODS, Hungry Joe's, Java 'n' More, and Peasant Pies are the four Noe Valley eating establishments that made Dan Leone's new book, *Eat This, San Francisco*, which he describes as "a culinary expedition through the plastic-tablecloth jungle of cheap eateries in the Bay Area."

The *Bay Guardian's* "Cheap Eats" columnist raves about Peasant Pies as "a one-idea place, and lucky for them it's a great idea...the dough was perfect, and the fillings, according to the menu are 100 percent natural and according to me, 100 percent delicious."

Of Herb's he says: "As far as I know, [this] is the only really realistic eating place for the empty-pocketed and mal-fashionably attired in this otherwise upwardly hip neighborhood. Not to Noe Valley bash; it's a great place for children and dogs and Sarnos and coffee. It's got Noe Valley Ministry, Peasant Pies, and a couple of fine record stores, but let's face it: It's no haven for cheap eats." (The review must have been written before Aquarius Records left.)

Leone's favorite dish at Herb's was the chicken-fried steak.

☎ ☎ ☎

THAT'S ALL, you all. Make sure you vote on Nov. 2. I am voting Yes on A and No on Mayor. If you're writing in anyone's name, make sure you take a pen with you to vote, write the office (e.g., "mayor"), and then write the person's name. But don't worry about the spelling.

If you don't know whether there is, for example, one o or two in my name, just spell it phonetically: M-a-z-o-o-o-o-o-o-k. We will have the local poll results next month and most probably runoff news. Willie and meeee. Ciao for now. ☐

## Veterans Day

November 11

This publication  
and  
The American Legion  
pay tribute to  
those who served,  
and who still serve,  
in our nation's  
armed forces.

E-mail a virtual  
Veterans Day  
musical  
greeting card  
to an  
on-line veteran.

It's free at  
The American Legion's  
World Wide Web  
site.



Thank You For Serving

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# Let's talk turkey about Noe Valley.



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# Wine, Roses & Regrets

BY CAROL ORMANDY

Waking up one morning last fall, I was hyperventilating within two minutes, my bag lady fears greeting me like a toothless hag at the foot of my bed. It wasn't the first time I'd awakened surprised

that a shopping cart wasn't sitting next to me, even though I was in no immediate danger of being homeless. But some days my mind just didn't get it.

Between deep breaths and affirmations about the universe being a bountiful place, I decided to go outside and stroll down 24th Street.

It was beginning to be a perfect Indian summer day. As I took in my favorite neighborhood, I passed some rose bushes and grinned, thinking of the saying about "stopping to smell the roses." My unreasonable fears and the morning's anxiety were gone. Homeless indeed. I decided to treat myself to a cone at Rory's and then shop for Halloween decorations.

As I approached the Post Office, I thought I saw my old friend Maggie. She didn't look good. Maggie had disappeared from my life a few years earlier, and I'd heard she wasn't doing well.

She saw me and called my name out. Did we run in slow motion, embrace, and share secrets of feminine hygiene as we caught each other up? No. I was speechless, my breath was no longer a deep and flowing river of peace within. My hands were clenched as my affirmation became a nightmare.

Maggie and a friend were sitting on a bench that was half covered with a torn blanket. I walked over to meet them, and we exchanged the standard comments about the nice weather—I assumed they were really pleased since it was obvious they lived outdoors. Maggie's skin was darker and used, like my leather garden shoes that I won't toss out. Her clothes seemed cellar damp and were wrinkled like her face.

Maggie's friend left and I sat with her. I told her what was going on with me, leaving out my fears of ending up like her, and she started rambling on about this wonderful, huge crate she slept in near the bay.

She joked about slumming it today in her old neighborhood. I smiled, but couldn't bring myself to laugh, certainly not the way we used to laugh. I shifted around, wondering about dirt and fleas. I began to rub my arms and think of ways to keep our conversation moving. After maybe 15 minutes, I told her I had to go and run some errands.

Later, as I sat with my latte at Spinelli's, I saw her staring at me. I felt as though we were on opposite sides of a window looking into each other's lives, and I sensed that she wanted to be invited back into my world, the world we shared until she'd made some bad choices.

As I was heading home, I walked over to invite her to dinner. I asked her

to call a couple of days in advance to let us know she'd be coming; I had no way to call her back. She asked me if she

could take a shower when she came by and I said yes, in fact, why not take a bath?

My bourgeois

imagination thrust me into a fantasy scene right out of the movie *Pocketful of Miracles*, when the street beggar Apple Annie is all cleaned up in a fancy motel room. I was horrified at my thoughts, but went to Common Scents anyway to stock up on some pampering supplies for her. Or maybe I didn't like the thought of her using mine?

As it turned out, she left a phone message on a Thursday asking about the following night and it was a night we had plans. I got frantic about what I would say in a note to her and how I'd leave the note on my door where she could see it. I even wondered if she would break in if we were not home. When my husband came home, I made him drive me to the area she said she was living in. He drove, but refused to get out of the car, so I walked around calling her name until I began to see how futile it was.

As dusk descended, I realized that I was afraid, and I wondered how Maggie felt night after night in the dark and the cold. When I got back to the car, I was crying.

My husband, also Maggie's friend, unwisely tried to use logic to comfort me, reminding me that she had made a choice: She'd decided she could take pills again after years of being clean. She got drunk every day.

He soon found out that he had

made a choice to get dirty looks from me. The only comfort I found in anything he said was that Maggie had alcohol to warm her and to keep her fears at bay. In the beginning, this is what alcohol and drugs do for many of us—some of us are just more scared than others.

She showed up later that same night. Her 19-year-old son, Tommy, drove her over. She had a fresh black eye and told me a story about the boyfriend who punched her and how she called the police and Tommy, but I wasn't listening. I was looking at Tommy, who I have known since he was 10 years old. My compassion for Maggie had shifted over to him, as I wondered what it felt like to go to a crate to pick up your mom.

Maggie announced that she just came by to take a bath and visit. It was after 11 p.m., and the rest of us had to work the next day, but she had all the time in the world. She spoke of getting back on her feet, and I told her I'd see what kind of help was available and when she came by again I'd give her some numbers and a phone card.

*Maggie and a friend were sitting on a bench that was half covered with a torn blanket. I walked over to meet them.... Maggie's skin was darker and used, like my leather garden shoes that I won't toss out. Her clothes seemed cellar damp and were wrinkled like her face.*

As soon as Maggie left the room, Tommy told me he was really happy that his mom was "kinda sober" that night. I was silently enraged that she had pulled him into any of this. Before they left, I invited them both over for Thanksgiving.

Maggie came back alone on Thanksgiving. She was three hours late for dinner. She stank of booze and the

urine that soaked her jeans. We had some friends and their toddler over, and although I had told them that Maggie might drop by and that she was homeless, none of us expected her to look like this. I expected the movie version of a homeless friend.

Maggie asked if she could wash up and I told her yes, but then I lied and said that we had plans to go to the movies and were leaving in 15 minutes so she needed to hurry. My friends were collecting their belongings, protectively holding their son.

I finally got Maggie into the bathroom, but she walked out naked a few minutes later. She had decided not to take a shower, but wanted clean clothes. I hastily found her some clothes and said goodbye to my friends as they ran out the door. My husband gave Maggie some money and drove her back to the same bench we'd sat on a month earlier, so she could catch the 48-Quintara to Potrero Hill. When he came home, we had our pie and coffee alone.

I THINK ABOUT HER THIS FALL, when I shop in Just for Fun and see all the Halloween stuff. We had more visits over the year, with promises and requests for money. I got her into a recovery home last March, but she got loaded and had to leave. Over the past year, she has called me from pay phones in parks, hospitals, shelters, and this summer from jail.

If I could help her, I would. If I could sober her up, I would. She is punch-drunk now and scarred from too many battles. I have reluctantly joined her long list of old friends that she believes have abandoned her, the list I swore I would never end up on when I saw her last November. At some point this became about my need to save her, rather than accept her as she is.

Maggie has joined the parade of people who've let their fears, their pain, and their desperation send them under bridges, bushes, and bus shelters across America.

As for me, I'm still waking up with a roof over my head. And repeating my affirmations: Today, I have all that I need and enough to share. So I will break bread and honor that grace in my life.

Carol Ormandy is a contributor to *Multi-tude*, a book of essays on writing compiled by Chitra Divakaruni. Her most recent published work was a piece about the Littleton massacre for *Salon* online magazine. She is currently working on a memoir about her experiences as a teenage unwed mother and the son she put up for adoption in 1968.

## THE LAST PAGE

### Writers

The Noe Valley Voice invites you to submit fiction, literary nonfiction, or poetry for publication on *The Last Page*. Please mail manuscripts, which should be no more than 1,500 words, to the Noe Valley Voice, 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114. Or e-mail [jaxvoice@aol.com](mailto:jaxvoice@aol.com). Don't forget to include a phone number, and an SASE if you want your manuscript returned. We look forward to hearing from you.



Photo by Beverly Tharp